

Panama set to ask Vatican for Noriega

New Government to file criminal charges

From James Bone, Panama City

The Panamanian Government is preparing criminal charges against General Manuel Noriega and will ask that he be handed over to face them. The announcement by the country's Attorney General, Señor Rogelio Cruz, brought immediate speculation that the filing of charges could be a prelude to the general's trial in the United States for drug offences.

"We have charges against General Manuel Antonio Noriega and we are going to ask for his preventive detention and that he be turned over to the Government of Panama," Señor Cruz said.

He did not say what charges would be brought, but hinted they could be linked to the deaths of three officers killed in the failed coup against General Noriega on October 3. But the charges could also involve drug trafficking. "If I

have evidence that someone has been trafficking in drugs I will initiate a case against him and demand his trial here in Panama," he said. The charges are to be filed tomorrow.

Diplomatic sources said that the Panamanian Government was considering drawing up a new extradition treaty which would allow General Noriega to be sent to the US.

The decision came after an appeal by the country's Roman Catholic bishops that

ama to give General Noriega a fair trial.

The general remained inside the Vatican mission yesterday, and diplomatic sources described him as pale, shaky and weak.

US forces have stopped bombarding the Vatican compound with rock music after the Papal Nuncio complained he was being kept awake while General Noriega slept.

President Endara, who himself took refuge in the mission earlier this year, noted the irony that his place had now been taken by his arch enemy.

"He is in the same room; he is in the same chair; he is seeing the same television that I saw when I was there," he said. "He should be getting bad vibrations."

Forces led by Major Moises Giroldi, chief of General Noriega's security company in the Defence Headquarters building, captured the general during the attempted October coup.

General Noriega negotiated with them and eventually loyalist forces attacked the headquarters, forcing the rebels to surrender.

The Government announced the next day that 10 of the rebels, including Major Giroldi, had been killed in the fighting. None of the loyalist forces died. At the time there was much speculation, but little information, about how the 10 had died.

Señor Cruz said: "They were executed after they surrendered in a place away from the site where they gave up."

A Panama Defence Forces officer has told the Associated Press that when the coup failed, Major Giroldi and the others were promised personal safety. "But then he was taken by helicopter to the base at the airport and then from there to the military base at Tinajas where he was tortured, shot in the knee caps and elbows and then shot to death."

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General Noriega made to face justice. The 12 bishops said in a letter to the Pope that the deposed dictator should be forced to leave the Papal Nunciature where he took refuge on Christmas Eve.

"One is dealing with the author of abominable crimes, the destroyer of his people and of his own nation — all the while utterly determined to continue to the very end his cruel and evil conduct," the bishops wrote.

They said that General Noriega should be released to Panama and not to a third country which might provide him with sanctuary.

"It is quite justifiably feared that should he be set free in any part of the world Señor Noriega would in a short time be causing turmoil, conflict and violence in this long-suffering nation," they wrote.

The letter increased pressure on the Vatican to turn General Noriega over, and fuelled speculation that his release was imminent.

One report cited church sources as saying that the Vatican was sending a special envoy to Panama to continue negotiations about his fate.

The new Panamanian President, Señor Guillermo Endara, said after attending a church service yesterday that it would be difficult for Pan-

Berlin hails its first new year of freedom



Party politics: A jubilant Berliner wielding a chunk of concrete from the Wall yesterday as new year celebrations began.

Soviet leader's message of hope

By Anne McElvoy in East Berlin and Andrew McEwen, London

As huge crowds of East and West Germans jointly celebrated the new year for the first time in 28 years, President Gorbachev wished success to East European countries in their efforts to attain "socialism with democracy".

In a new year message which combined optimism in international affairs with disappointment on domestic issues, he spoke of a "wave of revolutionary renewal" sweeping Eastern Europe.

The new mood was nowhere more evident than at the Brandenburg Gate, where thousands of people from the two sections of Berlin met in noisy union.

"The necessity to combine socialism with democracy has again been vigorously reaffirmed in the dramatic events that occurred in Berlin, Sofia, Prague and Bucharest," Mr Gorbachev said, resuming his view that 1989 had been the end of the Cold War, the division of Europe was receding into the past.

"We wish our friends success. They can always rely on our solidarity," he said.

"Our people are ready to proceed with them along the road of freedom and progress."

However, at the same time Mr Gennadi Gerasimov, the

Azerbaijan battle 5
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Romanian parties get five-day deadline

From Michael Hornsby and Richard Boyes, Bucharest

The new Romanian leadership plunged headlong into democracy yesterday, giving the embryo political parties now being formed just five days to present their programmes. Those considered legal — according to the draft election law, only fascists will be excluded — must then draw up statutes and start to organize for the election scheduled for April.

At the same time, the Front for National Salvation, the new Government, sought to assure the Soviet Union that it

would not take Romania out of the Warsaw Pact. The Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, is expected in Bucharest at the end of next week.

Over 24 years of monolithic Ceausescu rule have smothered all idea of political competition. But the Romanian revolution is student-driven and there is no shortage of reform proposals from the universities which are electing democratic committees.

A former professor of English, Mr Sorin Botez, has been

trying to keep alive the idea of a liberal party, the poet and well-known dissident during the Ceausescu era, Doina Cornea, has associated herself with a rejuvenated agrarian movement. The once mighty Communist Party, with 3.8 million members, is rapidly becoming irrelevant. An influential group within the party, saying that communism has been deformed under Ceausescu, has called for an urgent congress at which the party would formally dissolve itself, although some feel that the Party has already been dissolved by the revolution.

However, any formal dissolution of the party does matter financially. The party has substantial assets —

including skyscrapers that house much of the party press — and these funds would be made available to the state. The state, in turn, could hand over money and such things as printing presses to the embryo democratic parties.

There is no suggestion of an anti-communist purge launched by the Front. It includes many former communists and seems to accept the need to work together with recently converted party members in the civil service and the industries.

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Forward to the past

- This year sees the centenary of Agatha Christie, the bicentenary of Benjamin Franklin, the tricentenary of the Battle of the Boyne, and enough interesting anniversaries to spark dinner-table conversation for the whole year: page 9
- Bernard Levin ushers in the new year by bidding a fond farewell to two old friends. Find out what they are on page 10
- Kylie unlikely ... Readers of *The Times* prefer tried and tested names for their offspring. See Letters (page 11) and Monday Page (page 15)
- Witness to history ... Our foreign correspondents recall the most exciting events of 1989: page 7
- There were two winners of Saturday's weekly Portfolio Platinum competition. They share the bumper prize of £16,000: page 3. The daily Portfolio Platinum competition returns tomorrow

Bond loses

Mr Alan Bond, the Australian entrepreneur, lost a weekend legal battle to rescue his brewing companies from receivership. Page 19

Dry solution

The mayor of Cagliari, the town in Sardinia hosting England's football team in the World Cup, has announced a 72-hour prohibition on alcohol sales for each qualifying group match there. Page 28

The 1959 Cabinet Papers

How Tories sought to sell the bomb

By David Walker
Public Administration
Correspondent

Harold Macmillan's 1959 Conservative Government planned a covert campaign of news manipulation to swing public opinion behind Britain's possession of the atomic bomb, according to Cabinet records released today under the Thirty Year Rule.



Mrs Thatcher, the new MP for Finchley, in October 1959.

Anglican bishops, academics and influential publicists were to be enlisted and the Independent Television Authority to be "persuaded" as part of a Cabinet-approved campaign set in train when Macmillan became worried by opinion polls showing that people might be tempted by the Labour Party's stance on nuclear disarmament.

But the minutes, terser than in previous years because of the absence of internal controversy in the Cabinet, show Macmillan in the prime of his

political fortunes, approving an expansionary budget before leading his party to an overwhelming victory in the general election of October 1959.

Leaving most domestic issues to the Home Secretary, R.A. Butler, Macmillan concentrated on foreign policy issues, notably relations with the Soviet Union, then led by Nikita Khrushchev, and the

Family and most intelligence material referring to atomic weapons. Highlights from records now in the public domain include:

- The first mention in the Cabinet archives of the then newly elected Conservative MP for Finchley, a certain Mrs M. Thatcher. The Home Affairs committee of the Cabinet resolved to take over a private member's Bill Mrs Thatcher was promoting within a month of her election to prevent it being drafted in too sweeping a manner.
- An attempt to reduce negative feelings among the Metropolitan Police about coloured immigrants in Brixton and Kensington by having West Indian entertainers, including Harry Belafonte, perform free of charge at police concerts.
- The Foreign Secretary's private admission that he was powerless both to prevent the

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Large oil slick threat to Morocco

Rabat (AFP) — An anti-pollution team was yesterday tackling an oil slick that threatened great stretches of Morocco's Atlantic coast as it drifted within 23 miles of the shore, officials here said.

The crude oil began pouring into the sea 12 days ago from the Iranian tanker, Khark, which was abandoned by its crew of 35 in the high seas north of Las Palmas in the Canary Islands after the vessel caught fire.

The Moroccan Interior Ministry said yesterday that if the 70,000 tonnes of oil that have since spilled hit the coast it would cause an ecological disaster of the most dramatic proportions.

Yesterday, the slick was close to the coastal town of Oualidia, while a further 200,000 tonnes was believed to be in the ship's holds. An Interior Ministry statement

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Thatcher bids to brush aside poll of pessimism

By Nicholas Wood
Political Correspondent



The British public enters the new year braced for more strikes, higher unemployment and falling living standards, according to the latest MORI poll for Times Newspapers.

The sense of gloom about the nation's economic prospects is more pervasive than at any time since the mid-1980s and underlines the scale of the task facing the Government as it seeks to overhaul a 7-point Labour lead, down from 14 per cent in November.

Yesterday, Mrs Margaret Thatcher and her ministers sought to dispel such pessimism by emphasizing the opportunities that lay ahead in the 1990s. The Prime Minister, in her new year mes-

age, promised a Britain that was "free, prosperous, generous and secure" and acknowledged popular pressure for better public services.

Mr John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, dismissed fears of a recession and maintained that the underlying

Kinnock's message 18

health and strength of British business was considerable. "The next year or so will be tough, but I see no need to join those who are predicting a recession," Mr Major said in an article in *The Sunday Telegraph*.

The New Year's Eve survey by MORI found that more people expect unemployment to rise in the coming year than at any equivalent time since

December 1984. The numbers expecting an increase outweigh those expecting a fall by 16 per cent. People are also gloomy about their personal standard of living, with 23 per cent expecting it to rise and 27 per cent expecting it to fall, a net rating of minus 4 per cent, again the worst figure for five years.

Public optimism about strikes has also dissipated in the wake of long disputes with rail and ambulance staff. Sixteen per cent more people expect to see more strikes this year, the first time the public has not expected greater industrial harmony since December 1984.

MORI interviewed 1,002 adults aged 18 and over in 50 constituency sampling points across Britain. Interviews were conducted face to face on December 27 and 28.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Ulster terrorists killed 62 in 1989

Terrorism claimed another 62 lives in Northern Ireland in 1989, but the big IRA campaign of death and destruction which had been expected to mark the 20th anniversary of the troubles did not happen. It was the third lowest level of deaths for any year since 1970. The death toll was made up of 39 civilians, 12 regular soldiers, two Ulster Defence Regiment soldiers, seven RUC members and two RUC reservists.

Frustrated at home, the IRA turned its attention to targets on mainland Britain and in Europe. In September they bombed the Royal Marine Band base in Deal, killing 11 young musicians. In the same month they struck in West Germany, shooting dead the German wife of a soldier as she sat in her car outside her flat in Dortmund. In October they murdered a Royal Air Force corporal and his six-month-old daughter in a gun attack on their car in Widenorath.

In January, lives lost in 1989 were far more peaceful than the 1970s. A total of 778 people died as a direct result of terrorism in Northern Ireland against almost 2,000 in the decade before.

Glasgow begins reign

Glasgow's reign as European City of Culture began today as about 15,000 people crammed into George Square to celebrate the biggest Hogmanay party held in Scotland (Kerry Gill writes).

The skies over the city were illuminated by a fireworks display shortly after midnight as the celebrations, which included pop groups, singers and pipe bands, heralded a year of cultural activities. A video link was established with Paris to allow M Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris, to officially hand over the title.

Charter action threat

A union leader yesterday threatened legal action to enforce the European Community's social charter in Britain. In a message on the eve of the new decade, Mr John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB, said "we will push the social charter to its limits and take legal action to enforce it to win decent working conditions in Britain".

Car bloodstains clue

Home Office forensic scientists have found bloodstains in the car of Miss Ruth Stevens, who disappeared after leaving night school in Warrminster, Wiltshire, on December 12. Her car, a Vauxhall Viva, was found in the King's Cross area of north London on December 20. Miss Stevens, aged 33, was last seen driving off in the car to meet her fiancé, Mr Patrick Kelly, in Warrminster where she lived.

Cocaine case remand

The first man to be arrested by the Joint Police and Customs Drugs Task Force, set up to fight the spread of the drug crack, faced two charges of possessing cocaine worth £100,000 and one of intent to supply. Desmond Sylvester Barnes, aged 39, a postman from Stonebridge, was remanded in custody on Saturday until January 26 at Home Office Road Magistrates' Court, central London.

£288 a week jail cost

The average cost of keeping a criminal behind bars is now £288 a week, yet 45 per cent of those imprisoned are reconvicted within two years of release, according to a report by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Quentin Cowdry writes). Of the 81,836 people imprisoned in England and Wales in 1988, it says, 15,608 were convicted of burglary, 20,092 of theft, fraud and handling stolen goods and 17,186 of violence, sex or robbery.

Villagers ponder future of Bond's Oxfordshire estate

Fields of oak, chestnut and beech saplings dot the slopes of Glympton Park estate. Planted by the thousand, the trees are one investment which will be maturing long after the present financial difficulties of the estate's owner, the beleaguered Australian tycoon, Mr Alan Bond, are forgotten.

Since Mr Bond bought the 2,000-acre Oxfordshire estate, including a hamlet of about 30 houses, for £12 million in 1988, he has ploughed hundreds of thousands of pounds into the property, according to one employee. The brown stone Georgian mansion, nestled among hills rich in pheasant, is being thoroughly refurbished.

But now, as its absentee landlord struggles to keep his brewing holdings out of the hands of the Australian receivers, villagers are wondering whether Mr Bond will ever live in it. There is speculation that he might have to sell Glympton to pay off some of Bond Corp's AS6 billion debt.

Not all would be sorry to see the estate change hands. Local residents say that under Mr Bond's ownership, some of the former tenants who were renting on short leases have had to leave their homes.

Mr Peter Smith, who runs the Post Office in the neighbouring village of Kiddingdon, said: "A year ago there were 30 homes taking newspapers; now there are only 15".

Mr Tony Simpson, the groom of the previous owner, a coal baron who grew rich when coal was nationalized after the war, said he had let some residents keep cheap housing after they ceased to work on the estate. He also left each estate worker a legacy in his will.

After the sale about 15 months ago, a stricter economic logic took hold. "All the houses needed refurbishing, and they had to get rid of some of the low-rent people to start that."

Renovated houses can fetch at least £300 a month from visiting Oxford dons or servicemen from the nearby

British and American army bases, according to Mr Simpson, while a long-term tenant pays only £130 a month for a four-bedroom unit.

A former worker on the estate's pig farming unit insists, however, that long-term residents have not been forced out. Those asked to leave were all on short leases.

But he too confesses to a touch of insecurity. "I stopped digging the garden last year, because we were unsure what was going to happen. We just let grass grow over it."

Leaving on a cottage gate in the main street, Mr John Pounder, an agricultural contractor from a village five miles away, confidently predicts Glympton's future: "Richard Branson will get it."

The present home of the record and airline magnate is overcrowded, he insists.

The speculation shows how little residents know of their antipodean landlord's plans. Some are even unsure whether Mr Bond actually owns the estate, which is managed through a company called Dalhold Ltd.

Legal bid fails.....19

Organizer vows to sue council for £100,000

Judge bans new year acid house party

By Mark Souster

A High Court judge yesterday banned a New Year's Eve acid house party. Mr Justice Potter upheld an injunction by North Norfolk District Council forbidding the event after a three-hour private hearing in London.

Billed as the "mega-party" to end the decade, the event would have been held in a marquee on private land at North Walsham. More than 3,600 tickets costing a minimum £25 had been sold, according to Mr Tony Colston-Hayter, the organizer.

Norfolk police last night expected people would still head for the party, either unaware of the ban or in defiance of it.

Road blocks on main roads were scheduled to be set up and a "banning back" policy implemented to prevent trouble. Additional officers were on standby "for the contingency plans we have should

the need arise", a police spokesman said.

Forces throughout the Home Counties were also on standby as thousands of revellers set off for up to 20 parties, some of them big events. As with many of the acid house parties that became a trend for teenagers and a headache for the authorities, the venues for last night's events were disclosed only just before they started.

Detectors at the acid party co-ordination centre in Kent have received a flood of information about possible parties near the M25 in eight counties.

Det Sergeant Pat King said: "There is a possibility of about 20 parties and one or two of those may be big ones. Regrettably we have not yet identified any venues but the information we have received has given us some very useful clues."

He said it would be up to the senior officers of each county's

police force to decide how best to deal with the problem. "Kent has a police support unit standing by to deal specifically with any party we find out about."

After the Norfolk party was banned by the High Court, Mr Colston-Hayter described the ban as "completely unfair". He said: "Our final party has been stopped. The injunction has been upheld. It's typical of the way that we are being oppressed by the authorities."

He said he faced a prison sentence should the party go ahead illegally.

"It's a massive blow. New Year's Eve 1990 has been ruined."

Mr Colston-Hayter said he intended suing North Norfolk District Council for £100,000 damages. "We are going to show the local authority that they can't treat us like idiots." The party was first scheduled to be held in Essex, but switched to a new location on legal advice.

It would have included film and computer graphics on a huge video screen, a laser show, and fireworks. The party was possibly the last of its kind. From February acid house parties will be illegal without a public entertainments licence.

The original order banning the event had been brought under the Public Entertainments Act by North Norfolk council against the organizers and landowner.

A demonstration is planned in London later this month by acid house fans in support of the Freedom to Party Movement.

Mr Colston-Hayter said: "We have 10,000 members who only want the right to dance all night." Ticket-holders for the Norfolk party were expected to attend other events in London, he added.

Organizers had been confident the party would be allowed. Mr Colston-Hayter said: "We had beaten injunctions on two previous occasions and we were confident we would win."

What people don't realize is we are not a cowboy operation. We are a limited company with a turnover of seven figures."

Senior Home Office officials are pressing for a central police air support unit to be set up in spite of strong opposition from local authorities and larger police forces (Quentin Cowdry writes).

The Home Office is due to announce shortly the commissioning of an independent analysis of police requirements for helicopters and other aircraft and how those ought to be met. Some senior policemen and councillors believe the exercise will be arranged to support the department's view.

A clear sign of the latter came in October when the Home Office asked for comments from the Association of County Councils on the possibility of a centrally managed unit being set up, serving the 54 forces from regional bases.

Howe defends passports hand-out in Hong Kong

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Sir Geoffrey Howe yesterday confronted the Government's critics at home and abroad over its plans to grant British passports to 50,000 Hong Kong families.

The Leader of the House dismissed Peking's accusation that the immigration pledge was a "gross violation" of the Anglo-Chinese Joint Declaration on the future of the colony which he, as Foreign Secretary, was instrumental in securing in 1984.

Britain's latest promises to the people of Hong Kong were "centrally consistent with the over-riding purpose of the joint declaration."

He added: "I have no doubt that we are doing the right thing towards the fulfilment of the joint declaration that we and the Chinese Government signed."

China said at the weekend that it was "greatly surprised" by the British plans to issue passports, which, it maintained, were contrary to a memorandum attached to the joint declaration.

However, Sir Geoffrey, while accepting that Peking's criticisms had to be taken seriously, argued that the passport offer was essential to maintain the stability and prosperity of Hong Kong, the "over-riding purpose of the joint declaration."

That could only be done by

encouraging the "lifeblood" of the colony to stay there and continue to give their leadership and enterprise.

"What the Chinese sometimes overlook is that some 40,000 to 50,000 people have been leaving Hong Kong each year, going to countries such as the United States or Canada or Australia, and going there to settle in order to acquire the right to stay there as citizens."

"We tell them: 'Look, you may become citizens of the United Kingdom, but you do not need to come here to achieve that.'"

Sir Geoffrey, who was speaking on BBC radio's *The World This Weekend*, also

rejected the arguments of Mr Norman Tebbit, the former Tory chairman, who is leading a backbench Tory revolt against the Government's plans.

He said Mr Tebbit was wrong to suggest that all the 225,000 people involved would want to come to Britain.

"Some of them may come, but we don't think they are all likely to come, by any means."

"We are offering the prospect of citizenship with a right to come here, but on the basis that will encourage people to stay in Hong Kong."



Sir Geoffrey Howe in the studios of Radio Oxford, where he took part in Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*

Weathermen reserve decision on hot year

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

England is entering the 1990s after the warmest year since charts were first made 350 years ago, it will be announced today.

The Office's provisional figures report notes that "an other unusual feature has been the number of months which have experienced average or above-average temperatures".

Since July 1987, 26 months have been average or above average in temperature.

Other data indicates that 1989 was the sunniest year since 1909, with many parts of the Midlands southwards recording 1,000 hours of sunlight during May and August.

Provisional figures also suggest that 1989 was the driest since 1976.

Dr Houghton said that the Meteorological Office had identified a long-term warming of the globe since the beginning of the century, but he added that the UK had had some very cold weather in the past decade, including the minus 26°C measured at Shawbury, Shropshire, during the winter 1981-82.

"Global warming is a long-term phenomenon and the weather trends over many years must be examined to establish a conclusive link."

Killers of badgers to face jail

People convicted of killing or harming badgers will face

tough penalties under a new law to be rushed through Parliament with Government backing and all-party support (Nicholas Wood writes).

The courts will be able to confiscate specially trained terriers and to ban offenders for life from owning a dog. Further breaches could bring jail sentences of three months and fines of up to £2,000.

A private member's Bill sponsored by Mr Alan Meale, Labour MP for Mansfield, and Mr Andrew Mitchell, Conservative MP for Gedling, is to be brought before Parliament shortly. It should be law by the summer.

It aims to stop criminals keeping their dogs and so pursuing their cruel and illegal sport. In one case, two badly mauled terriers, nursed back to health by the RSPCA, had to be returned to their convicted owner.

An estimated 10,000 badgers are killed each year by badger-baiting; their population is forecast to drop by two thirds in 10 years.

Head of psychiatric unit is dismissed

By Mark Souster

The manager of a psychiatric unit seen as a role model for the treatment of the mentally ill has been dismissed after 17 patients committed suicide in the past year.

The announcement of the dismissal of Mrs June Burrows from her post as temporary mental health manager of the Edith Morgan psychiatric unit in Torquay, Devon, where she had been in charge for a year, was made at the weekend.

Her husband, Mr Charles Burrows, district general manager of the Torbay Health Authority, resigned at the same time.

The announcements follow two investigations by the South Western Regional Health Authority into the running of the unit and into management and staff morale in the district authority.

These were prompted by concerns expressed by Mr Hamish Turner, the South Devon coroner, and highlighted in *The Times*, at the number of suicides among patients treated at the unit or discharged into the community.

At the time Mr Turner said: "Suicides connected with the

Edith Morgan Unit represent almost half of all the suicides this year (1989) in south Devon. A lot of patients go out into the community without proper care... provided."

Such was his concern that Mr Turner, who was not available for comment yesterday, met psychiatrists, police and hospital administrators in November to review the unit's "open door" policy of discharging patients.

An interim report on the running of the two-year-old unit, built after the closure of several local mental hospitals, is with the regional health authority.

A spokeswoman said that the departures of Mr and Mrs Burrows were not connected with the inquiries but followed an separate review of management throughout the district health authority.

She said Mrs Burrows's dismissal followed the review, and that Mr Burrows had "thought it was in the interests of the Torbay Health Authority to resign".

Mr and Mrs Burrows were unavailable for comment yesterday.

Girl's plea on ambulance pay rejected

CLAIRE MACKINTOSH

A reply by the Secretary of State for Health to a letter from a schoolgirl pleading the ambulance men's case for a bigger pay offer has angered ambulance staff.

Lisa Mitchell, aged 15, of Colwick Park, Nottingham, whose father is an ambulance man, wrote to Mr Kenneth Clarke asking him to increase the 6.5 per cent offer.

Mr Clarke, writing during his Christmas holiday, replied: "You describe your father's life-saving skills. But the vast majority of ambulance staff have no extended paramedical training at all."

"They are professional drivers, a worthwhile job - but not an exceptional one."

His reply ended: "I'm sure your father, like the vast majority of ambulance men, is a decent and honourable man... I hope he will soon return to working properly at the job in return for the very fair pay which has been offered."

Mr Dave Attwood, Nottinghamshire branch chairman of Nupe, said his members were more than just professional drivers. "They all have high standards of first aid. What he has said has incensed us."



Mr Ken Mitchell, an ambulance man, with his daughter, Lisa, who wrote to Mr Clarke.

Crews urged to ignore strike calls

By Tim Jones, Arthur Leathley and Ronnie Faux

Union leaders will urge ambulance crews this week to boycott calls to turn the 16-week old dispute into a full-scale strike against the Government's refusal to increase its basic 6.5 per cent pay offer.

With no sign that Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, is prepared to accept their demands to take the dispute to independent binding arbitration, union leaders fear that increasing frustration among the crews will lead them to demand a strike ballot.

In Essex accident and emergency cover was severely restricted last night because of unofficial action on the busiest night of the year.

Half the county's crew members failed to report for work, saying that they were sick.

Rebel ambulance crews, based primarily in the Midlands, are planning to meet next Monday to demand a much tougher line from their national union leaders. They are expected to call for a strike ballot and "days of action" by other groups of workers. A spokeswoman for Nupe, the

main union involved in the action, said last night: "This is an unofficial move over which the union has no control and we are urging our members to ignore it."

The union believes that if it were to renege on its pledge never to abandon 999 emergency calls, it would lose the public support it now appears to enjoy.

Within that constraint, the union leaders will meet on Thursday to discuss how to increase pressure on the Government to agree to their demands. One possibility is to stage lunch-time rallies in support.

Such demonstrations, held in workers' own time, would protect the ambulance union from the legal consequences of allegations that it was setting up disruptive secondary action.

Early today as thousands of revellers ignored union pleas to stay away from Trafalgar Square in London three ambulances manned by unpaid crews stood by to deal with casualties and take injured people to the Westminster

Hospital near by. Mr Roger Poole, the union's chief negotiator, said the crews would be there because "the army and police teams are not properly trained nor are their vehicles properly equipped to give life-saving assistance."

Tomorrow four Labour councils in the West Midlands will consider following the lead of Sandwell council, which covers Smethwick and West Bromwich; it will operate its own ambulance emergency service from today.

Sandwell providing the first publicly-funded service outside the NHS, intends to run at least four reconditioned ambulances which will be operated by drivers who have been "locked out".

The other authorities studying the plan are Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton and Coventry.

In Birmingham, council leaders are considering running their own service by insuring crews who are at present prevented from driving their vehicles.

In Essex last night only 18 crews were expected to be

working instead of the planned 39 to cover the busiest time of the evening. Some stations, including Brentwood which covers part of the M25, were without any crews.

Ten police vans were on standby as well as army vehicles.

The decision to take unofficial action for one day came after a meeting last Wednesday when 100 ambulance crews voted to call for a one-day strike. It was not clear yesterday whether the main ambulance union NUPE had been involved in organizing the meeting.

In Manchester police were standing by last night to answer New Year's eve emergency calls after an escalation of the dispute by ambulance drivers in the city. A fleet of specially adapted police vans was ready.

A spokesman for Greater Manchester Police said yesterday evening: "We have sufficient manpower and vehicles standing by to deal with emergencies that might arise but so far they have not been called out."

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ambulance staff are angry that the Secretary of State for Health has rejected their demands for a pay rise.

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Such demonstrations, held in workers' own time, would protect the ambulance union from the legal consequences of allegations that it was setting up disruptive secondary action.

Early today as thousands of revellers ignored union pleas to stay away from Trafalgar Square in London three ambulances manned by unpaid crews stood by to deal with casualties and take injured people to the Westminster

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Tomorrow four Labour councils in the West Midlands will consider following the lead of Sandwell council, which covers Smethwick and West Bromwich; it will operate its own ambulance emergency service from today.

Sandwell providing the first publicly-funded service outside the NHS, intends to run at least four reconditioned ambulances which will be operated by drivers who have been "locked out".

The other authorities studying the plan are Birmingham, Walsall, Wolverhampton and Coventry.

In Birmingham, council leaders are considering running their own service by insuring crews who are at present prevented from driving their vehicles.

In Essex last night only 18 crews were expected to be

working instead of the planned 39 to cover the busiest time of the evening. Some stations, including Brentwood which covers part of the M25, were without any crews.

Ten police vans were on standby as well as army vehicles.

The decision to take unofficial action for one day came after a meeting last Wednesday when 100 ambulance crews voted to call for a one-day strike. It was not clear yesterday whether the main ambulance union NUPE had been involved in organizing the meeting.

In Manchester police were standing by last night to answer New Year's eve emergency calls after an escalation of the dispute by ambulance drivers in the city. A fleet of specially adapted police vans was ready.

A spokesman for Greater Manchester Police said yesterday evening: "We have sufficient manpower and vehicles standing by to deal with emergencies that might arise but so far they have not been called out."

ambulance staff are angry that the Secretary of State for Health has rejected their demands for a pay rise.

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Britain in 1990s

Slower pace predicted as backlash to stressful 80s

By David Cross

The days of fast food, portable telephones, time-planners and other youthful symbols of the bustling 1980s are numbered. By the mid-1990s when a backlash sets in, it will be decidedly untrendy to rush about and a more leisurely pace of life will set in.

Contrary to 1970s predictions, the 1980s turned out to be a busy decade, the Henley Centre for Forecasting says in a survey of expected social changes in the 1990s published today. "We caught what one commentator has described as 'hurry sickness'."

"To be busy was to have evidence that you were needed. But by the mid-1990s, the long-term historical norm will have again reasserted itself. We will see that we have been rushing around to no avail. Stress will be the number one health hazard and products that punctuate time rather than accelerate it will be in demand."

The report expects the average Briton to be considerably better off in the mid-1990s, despite a slowdown in the rise in incomes during the next couple of years. By 1995 the average person will be 10

per cent better off. But the growth in affluence will not be evenly spread and the gap between the poor and rich will become much more pronounced.

Between now and 1995, the living standards of the 11 million poor, 7 million of them on state benefits, will rise by only 1 per cent, compared with 39 per cent for the richest 20 per cent of the population, the survey says.

The spending power of women will rise further as more join the labour market. Between now and 1995, 55 per cent of new professional and management jobs and 62 per cent of other jobs will go to women.

Even more women will be trying to combine career and family and the pressures on them will be enormous in terms of lack of time, stress and possible guilt feelings, the survey believes. As a result there will be less stereotyping of their roles.

In employment, blue collar workers, who made up 55 per cent of workers in 1971, will account for only 40 per cent in 1995. The decline in the number of young people in the

early 1990s will lead to more retraining and many more jobs for women, older people and the ethnic minorities. The number of multi-skilled, full-time managers is expected to fall by 1995, while there will be more low-skilled workers on low pay and part-time or self-employed skilled workers.

Technological advances during the early 1990s will include improvements in the sound and vision of televisions. Compact disc players which can record, portable video players and high definition TV sets will come on to the market.

There will also be a blurring of the geographic separation of work and leisure — more home facsimile machines and home photocopies, for example. The growth and fragmentation of the broadcast media is inevitable, the report says. Satellite television will succeed, with many more stations.

In the home, simple burglar alarms will in the longer term be replaced by more advanced devices such as voice recognition systems. Kitchens are likely to be more integrated, with the "intelligent" kitchen,

which can be programmed to take ingredients from such places as the refrigerator, mix them and cook them, a real possibility.

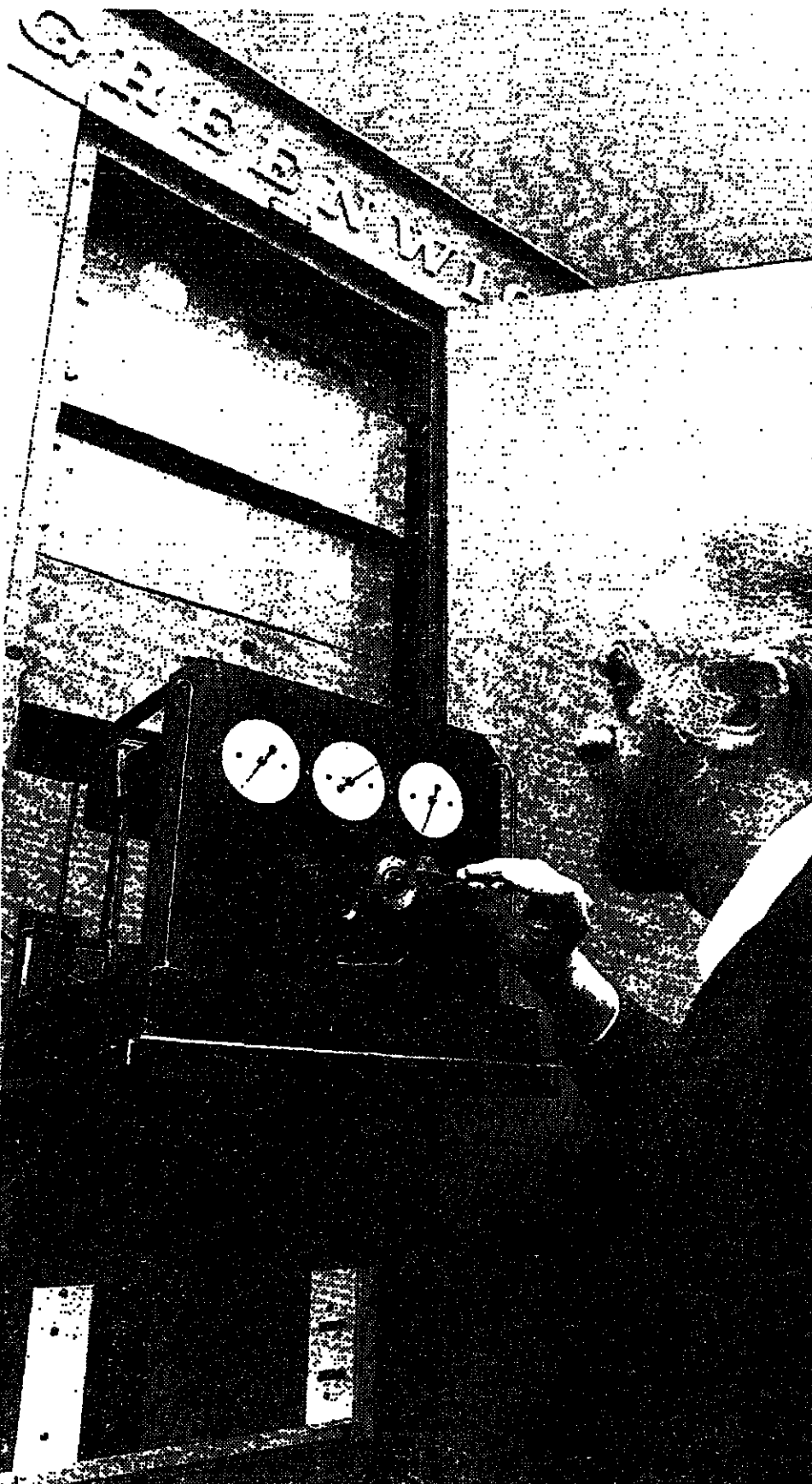
In politics, the survey believes that Britain has reached a watershed in political values. "We are moving into an area where care and equity are resurfacing as prime political values."

"Although, with her ever-sensitive political antennae, Mrs Thatcher has moved with the political currents, she may be so indelibly associated with the resolute, rather hard-faced phase of 1980s Thatcherism that she is not the leader to feel at home in the new times ushered in by the new decade," it adds.

After 1992 and the abolition of trade barriers in the European Community, the long-standing antipathy of the nation states is likely to wane further.

By the year 2000 the British, French, Germans, Italians and Spaniards will be buying each other's goods and cultures to a much greater extent at the expense of the Americans whose products and values will no longer be as popular.

A pip in time brings Earth in line with atomic science



Mr Tony Seabrook, communications engineer, adjusting his six-pip machine

New Year's Eve revellers last night had to hold their breaths an extra second before seeing in the 1990s (Nick Nuttall writes).

The delay came courtesy of Mr Tony Seabrook, the Royal Greenwich Observatory's communications engineer, and his familiar Six Pips Machine, which is now more than 40 years old.

Astronomers, trying to keep the world's atomic clocks synchronized with the Earth's less predictable spin, have miscalculated the planet's recent rotation speed.

Consequently it fell to Mr Seabrook to bring

heaven and Earth in line by adding an extra pip to the Greenwich time signal.

This will be the last time the Six Pips Machine, at the Herstmonceux, observatory, East Sussex, will make the historic seven-pip correction, crucial in many fields including navigation and surveying.

The electro-mechanical device will be soon be playing its last six pips. It will make way for the mighty micro-processor and a digital pip machine.

Its final six-pip performance is expected "some time in the next two months".

PORTFOLIO PLATINUM

Two share weekend £8,000

Two winners share Saturday's £8,000 Portfolio Platinum prize.

Mr Colin Atkinson, aged 67, a retired civil servant from Eton in Aberdeenshire, said: "This win came out of the blue. My wife and I are chuffed to death."

They plan to visit Iceland this summer, though they might go somewhere warm in the meantime, and Mr Atkinson said he has decided to indulge in an electric trolley for his golf.

The other winner, Mr Ronald Smith, aged 69, a retired civil servant from Beaminster in Dorset, said the win was a very good way of rounding off the 1980s. He plans to buy a motorcaravan to take his wife to the Pembrokeshire coast.



Mr Smith: Win is a good way to round off the 1980s

British police open foreign murder cases

Two senior Scotland Yard detectives are to start investigations at the invitation of other countries into controversial murders with international repercussions.

Det Chief Supt Ken Thompson flies to Kenya today to help local police with a new investigation into the death of Miss Julie Ward, aged 28, a British tourist whose partly burnt body was found on a game reserve last year.

Det Chief Supt Tony Comben leaves tomorrow for El Salvador with a small team of officers to investigate the murder of six Jesuit priests.

Bond winners

The winner of the £100,000 prize in the weekly Premium Bond draw announced on Saturday was the holder of 20 ZS 694382, who lives in Croydon. The £50,000 prize went to 12 BP 287548, from Berkshire, and the £25,000 prize to 32 BW 373559, from Cornwall.

Property divide 'is now a chasm'

By John Young

The average cost of a home in the United Kingdom has risen by 212 per cent in the past 10 years, according to figures published yesterday by the Leeds Permanent Building Society.

The biggest increase was in East Anglia, with a rise of 266 per cent, followed by the South-east (233 per cent), the South-west (231 per cent) and Greater London (226 per cent). Yorkshire and Humberside saw a rise of 194 per cent, Scotland 142 per cent and Northern Ireland 59 per cent.

The society says that during the 1980s the north-south divide on house prices became a chasm. In the last quarter of 1979 the average price of a house in the South-east was £29,508, 63 per cent higher than the North-east and 42 per cent more than Scotland; 10 years later the average in the South-east was £98,341, nearly 110 per cent higher than the North-east and 95 per cent more than Scotland.

The latest trends suggest that the boom is over in the South, whereas property values in Wales and the North were still rising in the last quarter. For the United Kingdom as a whole the annual growth in prices is likely to fall to 5 per cent or less in the early part of this year.

Average house prices in the last quarter, according to the Leeds Permanent Building Society, were: Greater London £181,362; South-east £98,341; South-west £78,356; East Anglia £75,712; West Midlands £65,237; East Midlands £64,436; Wales £55,286; North-west £55,173; Yorkshire and Humberside £53,207; Scotland £50,339; Northern Ireland £35,848.

The Principality Building Society put the average house price in Wales notably lower at £48,608, although that was nearly a third higher than a year earlier.

Union pacts pave way to a General Teaching Council

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

A serious obstacle to the establishment of a General Teaching Council to oversee professional standards in English and Welsh schools has been removed by an historic agreement between the teachers' unions.

Together with 14 other educational bodies, the six teachers' unions have agreed to contribute a total of £50,000 to pay for the establishment of a permanent secretariat to handle the formation of the new council.

Warring between the unions and the existence of two rival groups promoting different versions of the scheme had hindered progress towards the creation of a professional body for teachers. Now, the smaller group, led by Mr Gerald Smith, a Northamptonshire headmaster, has agreed to merge with the larger, convened under the auspices of the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers.

The UCET working group, chaired by Professor Alec

Ross, Professor of Education at Lancaster University, already includes representatives of all six teachers' unions.

The general secretaries of the unions have accepted an invitation to share the same platform at a London conference, being organized by Mr Smith, on the status and morale of teachers. A formal announcement of the progress on the GTC scheme is due to be made on the eve of the conference in London next month.

Mr Peter Dawson, general secretary of the non-TUC Professional Association of Teachers, which supported Mr Smith's initiative, said last night: "The line up for the conference reads like a Who's Who of education. But there are still some obstacles to be overcome."

Chief among the problems is the stance of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers which believes teachers' unions must retain the right to negotiate conditions of em-

ployment. There has also been fierce debate about the role to be played by the trade unions.

Despite advances in education, children still want to know more about the subjects their parents find difficult to talk about, according to a study to be published later this month.

Research by the Schools Health Education Unit at Exeter University showed that three-quarters of pupils aged seven wanted to be taught about human reproduction and two-thirds of girls wanted to learn about imminent changes to their bodies.

In contrast, only one in four parents and one in 10 teachers questioned thought sex education should be on the infant school timetable, although just over half of both groups thought it had a place in junior schools.

Three-quarters of the 10,984 primary-age children in 11 counties questioned for the study said they would also like lessons on bereavement and family relationships.

Playground killing

School report 'is libellous'

By Our Education Reporter

The authors of a controversial report on the killing of a 13-year-old Asian boy in a Manchester school playground were accused yesterday of "patronizing and libelling" a woman they invited to help them with their inquiry.

The full text of the Macdonald report will be formally published on Wednesday by the four-member inquiry team in spite of warnings that some of its contents are libellous.

Yesterday Mrs Kim Ruscoe, who was invited to give evidence to the inquiry by its chairman, Mr Ian Macdonald QC, said she would take legal advice about passages referring to her views on race and her qualities as a mother. Mrs

Ruscoe was approached to take part in the inquiry after she withdrew her son from a state primary school in Manchester because she objected to the council's anti-racist education policies.

She said she was "upset and very angry" to find that in the full report she was included in a section about "the white backlash".

"They have called me oppressed, ignorant and white working class because they know I have not got the money to do anything about this. They know I cannot afford to sue them for libel," she said.

"It is patronizing and they have twisted what I said to suit them."

Labour-controlled Man-

chester City Council, which commissioned the report after Ahmed Ullah was stabbed to death at Burnage High School in 1986, has refused to publish it in full because of legal difficulties. The team, however, decided to publish it as a 520-page paperback book in response to what they claimed was "overwhelming" public demand.

Mrs Ruscoe is referred to in a chapter in which the authors ask: "Do parents have a right to bring their children up as racists and sexists or to insist that the school they choose for their children does so?"

Murder in the Playground (Longman Press, 76 Strand, Green Road, London N4 3EN: £9.99 paperback, £19.95 hardback, £2 p&p).

Seventeen passengers defy bomb threat to US transatlantic jet

From Jamie Dettmer, Detroit

American security experts are predicting a new terrorist threat aimed at disrupting international airways after more than 200 passengers were detained from flying on a North West Airlines transatlantic flight on Saturday because of a widely publicized bomb alert.

Experts fear that terrorists will now start regular bomb hoaxes in an attempt to undermine confidence in airlines. An official of the Federal Aviation Administration said the cost could be very high: "All bomb threats from organized terrorist groups have to be taken seriously."

North West Flight 51 from Paris to Detroit flew with only 17 passengers, including three journalists. The airline lost more than £150,000 operating the flight and faces a large bill for the extra security provided at Charles de Gaulle airport. Its assurances of extra security were rejected by 113 passengers booked on the flight who opted to switch to other transatlantic flights operated by TWA and Air France.

A North West official in Paris said that at least another 100 passengers were probably deterred from booking on the flight after the airline took the unprecedented step of announcing on Thursday that a "specific terrorist threat" had been made against the flight.

Those who did fly chose to stay with North West because they were convinced that the flight would be safe. One was critical of the passengers who transferred

to other airlines: "I was hoping to see a couple of hundred defiant Americans getting on that plane," he said.

The flight took off two hours late because of the extensive security checks and fog over the airport.

The DC10, which arrived in Detroit yesterday, had been guarded by armed police at the airport. It had been flown in specially from the US.

Ten airline security personnel, a dozen Paris policemen, six plain-clothed detectives and an assortment of US govern-

ment officials, North West staff flown in from Detroit and FBI agents ushered the passengers into a cordoned off check-in area.

On board they were welcomed with champagne. Before takeoff, Captain Gary Ferguson thanked the passengers for travelling on this "rather special flight".

Passengers included two professors, two students, two businessmen, a paint contractor and a high school teacher.

Three North West officials and two FBI agents, believed to be armed, also travelled. During the first hour the passengers remained nervous. "I am worried, but not too scared," said Professor Gabriella Michael, a lecturer in

languages at the University of Michigan.

"They gave me the option to change flights, but this one is priceless for me as it flies direct to Detroit. A friend called me after he learnt about the threat on television. Everyone advised me strongly to change."

A university colleague, Professor Naylor, aged 60, said: "My eldest son phoned me and told me about the threat. I am a little worried, but I suppose in the end I didn't change flights because I am too lazy."

Other passengers had a variety of reasons for travelling. Mrs Judy Hsia, with her husband and two children, said she would have liked to change but had been offered only a flight with TWA. "I couldn't see any reason in changing to another American airline."

Miss Suzanne Chenault, aged 42, a high school teacher from San Francisco, said she had stayed with Flight 51 as "a personal statement".

The threat was made on Thursday by telephone to North West offices in Detroit. The caller spoke English with a Middle Eastern accent. North West made the threat public because it was directed at a specific target.

Mr Bruce Hoffman, a terrorist specialist at the Rand Corporation, said: "This could well start a new trend in terrorism: terrorists could win psychological victories by not firing a shot or detonating a bomb."

● I stayed with Flight 51 as a personal statement ●

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THE 1959 CABINET PAPERS

Macmillan ordered secret nuclear campaign

Harold Macmillan, as Prime Minister, ordered a covert campaign to swing public opinion in favour of the British nuclear deterrent, according to Cabinet records opened under the 30-year rule.

The Government, involving "influential publicists", sympathetic bishops and persuadable academics, set out to "counter agitation against this country's possession of nuclear weapons".

Macmillan, anxious about the possible public appeal of the Labour Party's disarmament proposals and the numbers of people attending marches and rallies organized by the newly-formed Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, cast around for ways of changing the public mood.

"The new Labour policy on the H-bomb may command considerable support," he wrote to Lord Hailsham, Lord President of the Council and chairman of the Conservative Party, "and we must consider how to deal with it."

Lord Hailsham replied that the Government had to "give a more positive lead to public opinion and to explain the significance of our own policy." (In the event, internal divisions within the Labour Party, pitting its leader, Hugh Gaitskell, against the party conference, proved more telling than positive propaganda on the Government's behalf.)

The operation was put in the hands of Dr Charles Hill, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and effectively the Government's Minister of Information. He was assisted by William Deedes (now Lord Deedes), the former editor of *The Daily Telegraph*, then a young Conservative MP.

Among officials involved were Sir Edwin (now Lord) Ffowkes, the chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority, who consulted Sir John Cockcroft, the distinguished physicist, on the presentation

of scientific data to the public. Sir Edwin was asked to provide an analysis of a speech made by Mr Denis Healey, then a rising Labour MP. Government information officers were summoned to a confidential weekend briefing session.

The record shows that Macmillan always closely in touch with his alma mater — was significantly influenced by the results of a poll of Oxford undergraduates which showed 49 per cent against American nuclear bases in Britain. He turned to Dr Hill to mount a campaign to counter agitation against Britain's possession of nuclear weapons.

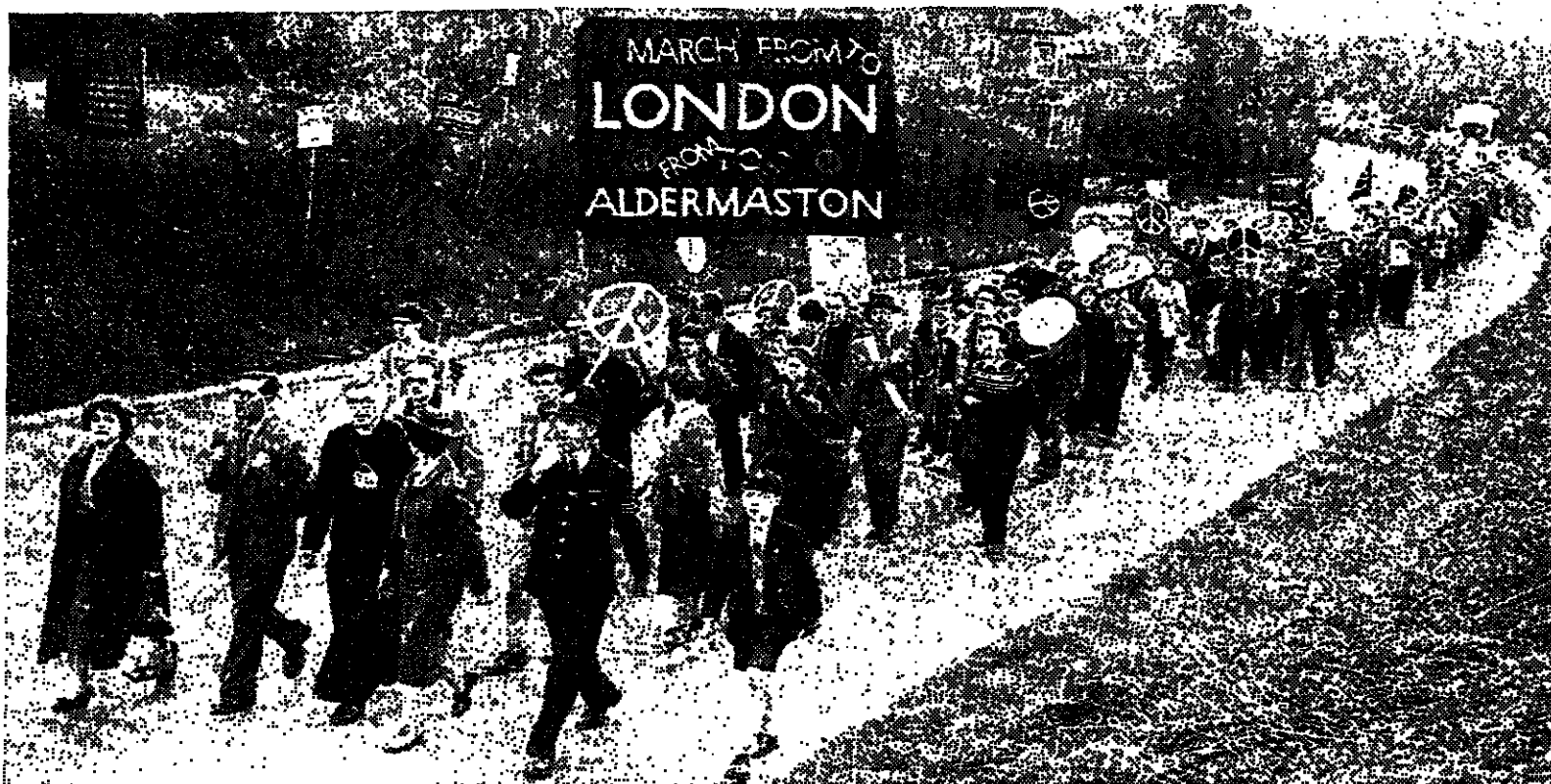
"This is a question on which the natural emotions of ordinary people would lead them to be critical of the Government's policy."

Dr Hill recommended a "discreet approach" to the BBC and the commercial programme companies so that "suggestions" could be made. He was active in steering the parliamentary lobby journalists, putting out a good deal of guidance and squashing unhelpful stories.

A file of correspondence shows Macmillan telling the Home Secretary and Leader of the Commons, R A Butler, to accept an invitation to appear on the BBC Television *Panorama* programme.

There was also commercial television. Hill subsequently became chairman of the Independent Television Authority. "Could we not get the ITA to take the initiative, but perhaps in a more positive way by briefing suitably people who would speak in support of the UK's possession of nuclear arms?"

A campaign of letters to the papers was considered. However, "letters to *The Times* are all very well, but do not reach the middle range of people." Instead, Macmillan and Hill



Public opinion: thousands on the march in 1959 to protest against nuclear warfare. This sentiment prompted Macmillan's covert propaganda campaign.

musued over more direct intervention in the process of forming public opinion. "Can we persuade some influential publicists to write articles... are there any reliable scientists or Church of England bishops?"

The answer was yes. Macmillan had his own suggestion: Professor Alan Bullock, the Oxford historian, now Lord Bullock, Aidan Crawley, the television producer and former editor of *Independent Television News*, is also mentioned as someone who "would probably help".

Macmillan himself decided to take a hand, by replying volitionally to people taking the CND line. He tells Lord Hailsham in a triumphant

tone of his response to a letter received from Professor David Glass, the London School of Economics demographer, on behalf of pro-CND academics: "I don't think his letters are really very interesting but my reply is, in my view, pretty good."

A July memorandum relates a coup for Charles Hill when he established a private dining club of Church of England bishops — among them the Bishops of Portsmouth, Chelmsford and Chichester — who looked promising carriers of the message about the British nuclear deterrent.

The enthusiasm for civil uses of nuclear power within the government was unstop-

pable. The Cabinet was told that an inquiry had approved an application by the Central Electricity Generating Board to build a 500-megawatt station at Dungeness, even though, as papers showed, the capital cost was about three times as much as that of a conventional, coal-fired plant.

Whitehall believed in the nuclear future. The Cabinet minutes record that nuclear power would become increasingly economical.

The generating board had told the Government that Dungeness was needed because coal supply would not be able, during the 1960s, to keep pace with the demand for power.

Leading article, page 11

Plan for black singers to curb police racism

In order to increase the "sympathy" of Metropolitan Police officers for black immigrants in Brixton and Notting Hill, Whitehall proposed in 1959 that West Indian entertainers should perform free at police concerts and benefits.

According to the minutes of an interdepartmental committee on West Indian immigrants which took place at the Colonial Office in May that year, a series of measures were discussed to combat what was recognized as — but not yet called — racist attitudes among police officers. In

the year following the Notting Hill race riots, civil servants also proposed that the Metropolitan Police recruit more older men, preferably with military or police service in the colonies. Younger officers might not understand the immigrants' outlook.

The Government was also discussing a Bill which would allow the Home Office to deport to the West Indies "undesirable immigrants" who had become involved with prostitution and violent crime. However, in the event, the measure was not enacted.

Thatcher makes her début with press Bill

The Prime Minister makes her first appearance in the archives of the Cabinet in December 1959.

The Minister for Housing and Local Government and Welsh Affairs, Henry Brooke, (whose son, Peter, is Secretary of State for Northern Ireland) alerted his colleagues on the Home Affairs Committee of the Cabinet to the fact that Mrs M Thatcher was promoting a private members' Bill on the admission of the press to meetings of public bodies which would need careful monitoring.

Within a month of her election to Parliament Mrs Thatcher had put her name to the measure, which had been around for some time and had wide support on the Conservative backbenches. The proposal was to open council committees and other public meetings to the press and members of the public; its successful passage boosted Mrs Thatcher's career and she was subsequently given a junior minister's job.

Mr Brooke reported that Mrs Thatcher was seeking government assistance in drafting her Bill. He, however, "saw difficulties". Ministers of local government were closer in those days to the local authority associations (which were passionately opposed to the Bill) than Conservative ministers tend to be nowadays.

Mr Brooke's colleagues were more enthusiastic. The Lord, a councillor, Lord Kilgair, was to take over the drafting of Mrs Thatcher's Bill but "only on the clear understanding that she would reject amendments which had not been agreed with the Government".

Efta a ploy to foil trade deals

Britain's decision to establish the European Free Trade Association was little more than a way of stopping other countries joining the six members of the Common Market, according to documents in the Public Record Office.

Foreign Office notes state clearly that Britain's promotion of "the Seven" as an economic grouping was a way of heading off other countries from making trade deals with the "Six", the countries which through the Treaty of Rome had become the European Economic Community.

The inability of British politicians and diplomats to work out a clear line of approach to Europe emerges from the official minutes. One of the Cabinet's sub-committees, made up of civil servants from various departments, was left to conclude that the beginning and end of Britain's problems in Europe was the "French attitude".

France was inherently protectionist, the officials said; her diplomatic tools were prevarication and equivocation. For the French, protectionism had provided a convenient cause for the breakdown of negotiations on a wider pattern of free trade within Europe — the object of British policy.

Government powerless to halt spies' movements



A greeting from the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev for Mr Macmillan in Moscow in February, 1959.

The British Government privately conceded it was powerless to prevent Gey Burgess returning to Britain from the Soviet Union or to prosecute him if he did come, an anguished memorandum to the Cabinet from Selwyn Lloyd, Foreign Secretary, discloses.

The Government's embarrassment was compounded by its recognition on other occasions in 1959 that it could not prevent the defection to the East of the atomic spy Klaus Fuchs or the free movement out of Britain of another atom spy, Alan Nunn May.

Ministers feared that disclosure of its powerlessness would offend opinion in the United States and jeopardize Harold Macmillan's efforts to persuade the Americans to share nuclear weapons technology with the British.

In February the possibility of Burgess leaving Moscow to visit his sick mother prompted

Lloyd to tell his Cabinet colleagues that no law could prevent his entering Britain.

Lloyd recorded that the Attorney General's view was that the "available evidence" was insufficient to support a charge being levelled against Burgess under Section One of the Official Secrets Act, dealing with espionage, or even some minor offence under Section Two, which related to unauthorized disclosure of official information.

A master of understatement, Lloyd concluded: "If Burgess returned to the UK and was not prosecuted, Her Majesty's Government might be considerably embarrassed." In the event Burgess did not return and died in Moscow in 1963.

The previous year, the Government had suspended an application for a passport from Dr Alan Nunn May, who had been imprisoned in the 1940s after his conviction for passing

atomic secrets to the Soviet Union. After a renewed application Cabinet discussion concluded that the lack of a passport would not prevent him from defecting if he intended to do so and it was decided that he could go on holiday in Austria on a British passport.

Three months later, the Cabinet had to decide what to do about Klaus Fuchs, another convicted atomic spy, who was due for release after serving nine years of his 14-year prison sentence. He had been stripped of his British citizenship on his conviction and it was decided there was no moral justification for detaining him in a country of which he was no longer a citizen. "His knowledge of atomic science must now be very out of date," Butler said.

Fuchs subsequently became a director of the East German Nuclear Research Institute.

A foretaste of views to come

The Prince of Wales's concern about views of and from London's monuments was anticipated in Cabinet discussions 30 years ago.

The Prince has worried about seeing the dome of St Paul's Cathedral in the City through a maze of skyscrapers. The 1959 arguments were over the views from London's royal parks, especially from Hyde Park.

Several hours of Cabinet time were spent on the aesthetic merits of high-rise building after a Cabinet committee failed to resolve a dispute about skyscrapers between the Ministry of Works and the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Battle was first joined in the Home Affairs Committee. Hugh Molson, the Minister of Works, was opposing a planning application, approved by the London County Council, to build the multi-storey Hilton hotel which now stands in Park Lane. But Henry Brooke, the local government minister, was enthusiastic, saying that London needed more hotel space.

When the matter went to the full Cabinet, ministers sided with Mr Brooke and the Hilton Hotel was built — the first of many tall buildings nowadays visible from London's royal parks.

THE TURBULENT 80s: Times specialists look back at a decade of change

Ten years of crises in NHS Dynamic time ahead for dons

80s

THE NHS

Jill Sherman

"We seem to have spent most of the eighties rearranging the deckchairs on the Titanic," one jaded health service manager said last week as she analysed the small print of the NHS reforms. Barbara Young, district general manager at Parkside health authority, west London, seems surprised that she still has a ship to crew at all.

The 1980s has been one of the most turbulent periods of the health service, beset by two reorganizations, industrial disputes, soaring waiting lists and a constant battle to meet growing demand with limited resources.

The NHS was never off the political agenda as it lurched from crisis to crisis under conflicting policy directions. Administrators turned into "general managers" and service cuts became "cost improvements" amid a constant jockeying for power between the medical profession, politicians and managers.

The eighties saw a surge in public interest in health, with more people visiting their GPs — who wrote out more prescriptions — and the drug bill rising to £2 billion this year.

The money kept on pouring in, with spending rising from £6.5 billion in 1978/79 to over £21 billion in England last year. But the cash still failed to match or even allow growth in services and as the screw tightened the Tories were

increasingly castigated by trade unions, nurses doctors and managers. Mrs Thatcher declared the NHS was safe in her hands, but health professionals despaired at the lack of substance behind the rhetoric, as waiting lists rose and consultants were forced to suspend operations due to lack of funds.

Reluctant to tamper radically with the country's most cherished institution, successive Tory ministers preferred to tinker at the edges. Each tended to reflect the political whim of the time, or the "panic of the week" whether it was a salmonella outbreak or a shortage of intensive care cots — rather than a long-term strategy.

One circular which urged authorities to sell off nurses' accommodation and evict the incumbents was immediately cancelled when ministers realized nurses could not afford to live anywhere else.

At the same time administrators struggled to provide more services for the elderly with only a little more money. Forced to juggle with hundreds of competing Whitehall "priorities", managers claimed they had no time to think about patients.

Patrick Jenkin, Dr Gerard Vaughan, and Sir George Young could not foresee the chaos ahead when they came to the Department of Health and Social Security in 1979.

They had great aspirations of devolving power to hospital level, cutting bureaucracy, taking on the doctors and trying to improve the nation's health through preventative rather than curative medicine.

But two damaging industrial disputes over pay were followed by two administrative reorganizations leading to plummeting morale, increased centralization and quashed hopes. "Cost efficiency" became the

catchphrase of the decade. Businessmen were wheeled into the health service in response to a report from Mr Roy Griffiths, from Sainsbury's. But politicians proved the point that the NHS could not be run like a grocery shop.

Every time a plan was drawn up it was knocked down in the Commons. The upshot was the resignation of the NHS chief, Mr Victor Paige, and three years later his successor, Mr Len Peach.

The early eighties also witnessed tough struggles with militant trade unionists and an increasingly powerful medical profession. But the strength of Nupe and Cosh weakened significantly as managers deftly removed the more militant members through competitive tendering of ancillary services and let private contractors move in.

Mr Kenneth Clarke laid the

foundations for his present battle with the medical profession when he was health minister in the mid 80s. First he imposed a limited list of drugs and then carried out a crackdown on GP deputising services — both of which caused almost as much furore as the NHS reforms.

In 1985 Mr Clarke also drew up the first draft of last year's controversial GP contract. The seeds were sown for the slanging match between the Government and the British Medical Association.

The NHS is probably safe in Kenneth Clarke's hands. It may become more efficient, as money is channelled more effectively, and standards of care may rise. Yet corners could be cut and quality may fall if managers and GPs go for the cheapest rather than the best option under the new internal market.

80s

HIGHER EDUCATION

Sam Kiley

University and polytechnic academics look back upon the 1980s as a decade of sharp change. After 10 years of Thatcherism they see themselves as underpaid and undervalued by a philistine Government full of humanists who believe the humanities are a waste of time and that scientific research should be financed by industry, not the taxpayer.

Most symbolic of the effects of the decade is the abolition of tenure — the "job for life"

system which protected academics from the vagaries of the market. Dons have had to accept that, after a peer review system set up by the Government, they could be dismissed for sloth or because they were superfluous to needs.

The end of tenure produced howls of protest. However, combined with the establishment of the Universities Funding Council under Lord Chilver (a swashbuckling free marketeer) and a shift in public funding methods which has created an incentive to recruit more students, the system looks potentially more dynamic than it has for decades. This is despite a tight squeeze on resources.

Britain, however, has fallen well behind both the achievements and educational aspirations of her competitors. In 1987 13.6 per cent of those

aged over 17 passed two A levels — the basic qualification for entry to higher education. South Korea is aiming for 80 per cent of its young people to reach university entrance standard by the end of the century. France has set a target of 75 per cent for that date.

Sir Christopher Ball, the first Royal Society of the Arts higher education fellow, defined precisely why education is so economically necessary. "Developed and developing countries the world over recognize that in future success will depend on the exploitation to the fullest potential of human resources."

Although working class entrance to higher education has increased over the decade, class III manual workers and the children of other unskilled labourers make up just 19.9 per cent of the undergraduate population while they form 58 per cent of the population at large.

The crisis is exacerbated by the predicted fall of a third in the number of 18-year-olds over the next decade, and the demands of industry and commerce for an ever more sophisticated workforce.

The Institute of Manpower Studies recently reported that over the next decade employers will want to hire 30 per cent more graduates, the supply (now 120,000 a year) is expected to grow by 5 per cent over the next three years and then level out.

In the last two years the concept that higher education should be free for all has been steadily eroded.

Sir John Kingman, Vice-chancellor of Bristol University, and the higher education minister, Mr Robert Jackson, both advocate a fee-surge as a means of bringing extra funds to pay for extra student places.

That could mean that within the next few years

students will find themselves paying for part of the cost of their tuition — a development which will quicken their interest in their subjects and sharpen the abilities of lecturers who will have to look upon students as clients.

The surcharges, according to Sir Christopher, could range in 1995 from £120 a year to £700 a year by the turn of the century.

The ground has also been laid for a radical shift in attitudes towards higher education to squeeze in the extra students.

Three-year degrees may be shortened to two. Students may have to stay at home to save money, and they will have to borrow from the banks or the Government to keep themselves in books and beer.

The Government's student loans proposals have been roundly criticized and after the scheme last month could fold completely. However, few, if any, commentators still cling to the ideal of education gratis.

It is not clear that student loans will necessarily be a disincentive.

Although the recent findings from the National Union of Students show that over 20 per cent of working class sixth formers say they would not go to college with a loan, over the last 10 years the maintenance grant has fallen in value by 20 per cent while applications to colleges have risen.

The next challenge for the Government will be to persuade colleges to expand the numbers of undergraduates they admit while charging fees.

Vice-chancellors and polytechnic directors have said that while many are in favour of expanding the system, now wants to be the first to go it alone and introduce private fees of any kind.

80s

HOLIDAYS

Shona Crawford Poole

Holiday surcharges were a fresh source of indignation at the turn of the last decade. The future of Sir Freddie Laker's airline was the subject of speculation on the financial pages, and there was growing criticism of the Department of Trade's powers to prosecute travel agents for selling cut-price air tickets with the connivance of the airlines' representatives.

The United States was the new destination to push and

package price wars had yet to earn their headlines. Ten years is an age ago in the travel business.

The foreign package holiday market has more than doubled since 1979 when 4.5 million Britons took off on air-inclusive trips. Surcharges are all but a thing of the past with over 90 per cent of holidays carrying no-surge charges.

Before it collapsed in the spring of 1982, Sir Freddie Laker's world-breaking Skytrain to the US had pioneered cheap, no-frills transatlantic travel.

Bucket shops, once twilight purveyors of cut-price tickets of doubtful legality, were legitimized by the legalizing of fare discounting in 1987.

Growth has not been without cost. Air traffic congestion led to long airport delays. Pollution caused sickness and

slime in the Mediterranean. But some habits changed.

Back in 1979 85 per cent of package holiday-makers stayed in hotels and only 15 per cent took self-catering holidays. Only half of the package-buyers in 1989 chose hotels. Of the rest, nearly half bought charter flight seats without accommodation.

The widely-reported slump in package bookings for next summer can be attributed in part to a reluctance to make holiday plans when interest rates have risen so sharply. Pollution and congestion must bear their share of blame too.

Price is also crucial. Mr Michael East, an industry consultant, predicts that those who took the cheapest foreign family holidays when tour operators were fighting for market share with packages priced at less than cost will be "priced out of the

market". There is no sign that people's taste for sunshine holidays will alter. Mr Martin Brackenbury, chairman of the Tour Operators' Study Group, says: "Unless global warming brings a substantial change in our climate most people will still choose to go south if they can afford it."

However, he says overdevelopment and pollution could affect the trade.

Where will we be going in the 1990s? Those who predicted the United States as the destination of the eighties got it right. The US became by far the most popular choice with those who could afford a long-haul holiday. Mr East fore-

casts "an acceleration of holidays to the USA because it is a first-rate product" whatever happens to exchange rates.

He sees Australia as a young people's travel choice.

He sees Australia as a

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THE CHANGING FACE OF EUROPE

Azerbaijan demonstrators turn on police after shooting

From Nick Worrall, Moscow

The old year came to a violent end in the Soviet republic of Azerbaijan when crowds of demonstrators overwhelmed police who opened fire on them in the southern city of Jalilabad.

The anger of the crowd forced Communist Party officials to flee for their lives. According to Baku radio, 63 policemen were injured and 37 people were detained.

A local journalist, Nazim Ragimov, said police shot a teenager dead and wounded 150 people when they tried to break up a protest rally using force.

Reports from the city, which is 15 miles from the border with Iran, said trouble began during the week when rallies were held to

demand the resignation of the local party's first secretary. On Friday the local party headquarters was set on fire and the session of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet cancelled. Premises belonging to the local internal affairs department and the party committee had been "pillaged", said Baku radio.

The station said that the situation had arisen because the people believed that the local party, Soviet and law enforcement authorities had been obstructing perestroika. They were critical of the colonial style of power wielded by local party chiefs. District party officials "can do whatever they want", Nadzhaf Nadzhafov, the newspaper editor for the radical Azerbaijani Popular Front, told Moscow journalists. Adminis-

trative work had been disrupted and transport routes blocked. By Saturday afternoon the situation was said to have stabilized but remained "tense". Roads and railways had been reopened.

According to Tass, the whole affair had been the work of "extremists". But there seems little doubt that growing militancy on the part of the Popular Front has probably been given an added boost by events in Romania.

However, it is a new twist for Popular Front anger to be turned on the Communist Party. Up to now, Azerbaijani activists have concentrated on blocking neighboring Armenia in the row over who controls the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

But food and consumer goods are in short supply, and there is

deepening gloom over the perceived shortcomings of President Gorbachev's economic reform programme. These might at last have begun to cause the tension that some radicals have been predicting if perestroika is not speeded up and old-style Communist rule allowed to dominate the outlying republics.

But in the Russian Federation, by far the biggest of the 15 Soviet republics, popular feelings are being stirred up by different causes.

Ten of Russia's most headline nationalist groups have agreed to unite to reject Mr Gorbachev's reform policies, demanding more rights for ethnic Russians and an end to preferential treatment for the outer republics.

As reported by the conservative

daily *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, the alliance apparently unveiled a programme for the elections in the republic on March 4 that combines Russian nationalist sentiment with an appeal to traditional communist values.

It criticized Soviet television for carrying "pro-Western propaganda", attacked "neo-colonial business ventures" with foreign partners, and accused the Government of being naive in cutting the Soviet armed forces.

The growth of militant Russian nationalism is seen as a direct response to events in republics such as Lithuania, Georgia and Moldavia, where Popular Front movements are advocating secession from the union and where ethnic languages have been displacing Russian to the dismay

of local Russian residents. The alliance includes organizations such as the United Front of Workers of Russia and Yedinstvo (Unity), who say that the Russian Federation and its people are being discriminated against. They want an end to Moscow's subsidies to the outer republics.

It is impossible at this stage to assess what appeal Russian nationalism and such conservative communist platforms might have for the voters in March. But as a gesture to the sentiments being expressed, a separate Communist Party structure for Russia was established in early December with Mr Gorbachev at its head.

Meanwhile, the newly independent Communist Party in Lithuania, which split from Moscow

against Mr Gorbachev's wishes last month, has been listing the mistakes and crimes committed by Communists in the past.

A statement issued in Vilnius said the Soviet Communist Party had failed to avoid false ideals, theoretical dogmas or the influence of ideas alien to the people of Lithuania.

The fall of the Lithuanian republic by occupation and annexation, the destruction of traditional lifestyles, the trampling underfoot of the people's religion and culture, mass deportations and extermination of the people were the essence of the Stalinist regime. Regrettably, said the statement, the Lithuanian Communist Party as an integral part of the Soviet party had been an instrument of that policy.

Moldavians call for open border and unity with Romania

From Nick Worrall, Moscow

Thousands of nationalists in the Soviet Republic of Moldavia, inspired by the dramatic turn of events across the border in Romania, called at a weekend rally for the border to be opened and for reunification with their neighbors.

The rally on Saturday was organized in the capital, Kishinev, by the extreme nationalist Stefan the Great Society, named after a former national hero. Between 4,000 and 5,000 people braved severe winter weather in the city's Republican Stadium.

They cheered and roared approval as speaker after speaker called: "Let's reunite with Romania"; "Down with the frontier at the River Prut"; "We must be like East Germany"; "We must be like Lithuania and have an independent communist party."

But a note of caution was sounded at a later rally on the steps of Kishinev's Palace of Culture which was addressed by the republic's new Communist Party First Secretary, Mr Pyotr Luchinsky.

Mr Luchinsky replaced the former hardline party boss, Mr Semyon Grossu, late last year. He is believed to have

been picked personally by Mr Gorbachev. At the rally he was pressed by members of his audience, many of them ethnic Russians, for tough action against extreme nationalists and opponents of communist rule. Mindful perhaps of the recent fate of several East European communist leaders, Mr Luchinsky asked: "Will that give you a guarantee of peace tomorrow?"

Counselling a less emotional, more careful approach, Mr Luchinsky said: "I'm sure we can find a common language. Are we going to live in a civilized country or not?"

He ruled out the possibility of using force, saying: "I will never go down that path."

Rallies are being held in advance of the republican elections which are due to be held on February 25. Mr Luchinsky and the parliamentary chairman, Mr Mircea Snegur, although communists, are being supported in the campaign by the Moldavian Popular Front.

This has been acting as a patriotic umbrella organization. An election candidate that does not receive its blessing will stand little

chance of being elected. The Front will support communists believed to place Moldavian interests first.

The Stefan the Great Society, which is led by the writer Andrei Turcanu, is not a part of the Front although many members belong to both organizations. The society is seen as the most extreme embodiment of Moldavian nationalism.

The question of the Romanian border is now a sensitive one. Since Moldavia was formerly Bessarabia and once part of Romania, many people still have relatives across the frontier. There has been little contact since Moscow annexed the territory and formed the Soviet Republic of Moldavia in 1940.

Suddenly everything has changed. Cooler heads in Kishinev recognize that Moscow will never allow its frontiers to be altered. But they do believe a type of "German solution" could be possible whereby the border would be opened and free movement would be allowed between the people, most of whom share a common language and culture.

Refuge for the orphans of the revolution



Children whose parents were killed during the Romanian revolution have been taken to a Bucharest orphanage yesterday. About 800 children, up to the age of three, are being cared for

there. Nine Romanian orphans adopted by Belgian families will join their new parents over the next few days (AFP reports). The Foreign Ministry said the Belgian and Roman-

ian governments had agreed in principle to end a wrangle of several months over the refusal of the ousted regime of Nicolae Ceausescu to let the children leave for the West. A similar

arrangement has been made between the new Romanian leadership and France, where 87 Romanian children legally adopted by French couples are scheduled to arrive this week.

Palace testifies to tyrant's megalomania

From Philip Jacobson, Bucharest

The biggest, most expensive and most damning of Nicolae Ceausescu's follies appears at the end of what was once called Victory of Socialism Avenue in Bucharest.

The Palace of the People could not have been more misleadingly named, unless you count those who once lived in the hundreds of buildings bulldozed to make way for this monumental folly, or the thousands of workers who toiled to construct one of the architectural monstrosities of the modern world. The ordinary people

certainly had no role in Ceausescu's conception of the palace, the plans for which he and his wife, Elena, are said to have sketched out personally.

They were intended to be kept very much at arm's length, away from the broad avenue — deliberately built wider than the Champs Elysees — on which block after block of new apartments rose above elegant boutiques and smart modern offices.

Yet nobody ever lived there, nobody ever worked there; it was a crushingly expensive ghost town, the Hollywood set behind which,

in narrow alleys, Ceausescu's subjects lived in the direst poverty. Ceausescu himself barely set foot in the palace, certainly never walked the length of its endless marble corridors leading from one identical anti-room to another, where huge chandeliers dangled from ceilings almost 100 ft high.

By some counts, the palace contains 7,000 rooms — which presumably qualifies it for the *Guinness Book of Records* — and a small army of badly paid cleaners would work literally around the clock to maintain the silent, empty edifice in the

gleaming perfection demanded by the dictator.

We parked in front of the main entrance of this great white elephant for a moment and the taxi driver, Sandru, suddenly smashed his fist down on the dashboard, overcame by fury at what lay before us. "That bastard, that bastard. What he did to us!"

The day before Sandru had driven me to another palace, the Prima Verde, where the Ceausescus and their court of sycophants and bully boys enjoyed themselves amid luxury unimaginable to the average Romanian. Like the

Ceausescu family home in Sornicesti, it had been seized in the name of the people.

Decorated in the most expensive bad taste it is crammed with heavy, dark furniture and what seem like dozens of colour television sets in lacquered cabinets. There are display cases full of Delft china, a magnificent antique clock stuck under a table, cocktail shakers that light up and play tunes.

To the delight of the troops, one journalist seated himself at the Bluthner grand piano and gave us a spirited rendition of "As Time Goes By".

Poles facing a new year with old price increases

From A Correspondent, Warsaw

Poland, which emerged in 1989 with the first non-communist Government in the Eastern bloc, rings in the new year with some of the stiffest price increases in its post-war history.

There was more resignation than hope as the familiar long lines — which had dwindled as more goods came on the market under the Solidarity-led Government — returned before the long holiday as Poles stocked up on sugar, petrol and other items in advance of the price rises.

The Solidarity administration of Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki is six months old, and despite some grumbling Poles have so far borne a series of price increases that would have sent them out in the streets under the communist leadership.

But under new austerity legislation passed last week by Parliament, real living standards are expected to drop by 20 per cent in 1990 and there is concern the country's patience may not last.

Mr Mazowiecki went on national television briefly at the weekend to appeal to Poles at home and abroad to contribute what they can to a new national gift fund, whose funds will be re-invested into health care, social welfare, education, science and culture and the environment.

In an interview on Polish radio, Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, talked of the tasks ahead, in which Solidarity will be only one of many

pressure groups. "I think Solidarity was a struggle for reforms," he said. "But when the system is reformed, we ought to put away the banner of Solidarity. The struggle is nearing an end, and the real work begins, and at work everybody's hands will get soiled."

Now that Solidarity's role was changing, it must concentrate on other aims, to be established at a party congress in March, the first since martial law.

"No one should be excluded from the shaping of a self-governed republic," he said. Johannesburg (AFP) — King Leka, aged 50, the exiled pretender to Albania's throne, yesterday called on his countrymen to fight their regime. King Leka said 1990 would see great movement in Albania.

"Solidarity has not got a monopoly on wisdom and good solutions... Solidarity has been effective, but it has not been practically minded."

Asked what he wished for himself during the coming year, he said: "I wish that I could have, at last, some rest."

Flats, food and fuel are among the main items to be hit by increases averaging 400 to 500 per cent, but in some cases hitting 1,000 per cent.

Electricity, central heating, warm water and gas will rise by 400 per cent today. Domestic telephone calls will double and postal fees will

increase 150 per cent, while foreign postal fees and telephone calls will go up by 200 per cent.

The Government also announced a big devaluation of the zloty, from 6,500 to 9,500 zloties to the dollar. The zloty becomes internally convertible from today.

Poles, living in a country that Stalin once described as fitting communism "like a saddle fits a cow", are finding the saddle of democracy pinches too.

Although Poland and Hungary are in the lead in reshaping their economies to open them to competition, every country in Eastern Europe will undergo the same painful processes this year.

"I do not complain. My situation has not deteriorated so much," said Mr Wieslaw Grabinska, manager in a jam-making factory. "But I am afraid most people will not stand for it." His wife, who makes £50 a month, said rent on her family's three-room apartment had leaped from 15,000 to 150,000 zloties.

Pensioners could be among the hardest-hit in the new year. Mrs Regina Turak, aged 75, now will pay about 70,000 zloties for her tiny flat on a 348,000 zloty pension.

"It will be harder and I will have to watch my money more carefully, but somehow we will have to survive this period," Mrs Turak said. "They say it will be better in six months or a year, but it is hard to believe it."

Securitate agents seek Yugoslav sanctuary

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

Ten Romanians suspected to be Securitate agents have sought asylum in Yugoslavia, where the authorities are co-operating with the new Romanian Government to check their identity.

Mr Jovan Vuckovic, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, said that Yugoslavia was in touch with the Bucharest leadership after a warning that Securitate groups may be trying to escape.

Yugoslav frontier authorities have been alerted and patrols have been reinforced. But the Yugoslavs believe that fugitives may be hiding in the wooded hills on the Yugoslav side of the Danube.

Since the uprising began, 79 Romanians have escaped to Yugoslavia. All, with the exception of the 10 suspect Securitate officers, fled while

the fighting continued and the end was still uncertain. Since the success of the uprising, more than 100 Romanian refugees who were awaiting permits to settle in the West have decided to return to Romania.

But 1,200 still remain here under the protection of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Thousands of Romanians have risked their lives in order to flee from the Ceausescu regime. The usual escape route was across the Danube where many drowned or were shot by Romanian frontier guards.

● BUCHAREST: Romanian state television said that General Iulian Vlad, the former head of the Securitate and two former deputy interior ministers had been detained.



Suspected Securitate "terrorists" handcuffed at Bucharest police headquarters yesterday.

Rallying cry by Chinese regime

Jiang on defensive over socialism

From A Correspondent, Peking

Mr Jiang Zemin, the Chinese Communist Party chief, delivered an almost apologetic defence of socialism yesterday, hinting at the depth of the shock the leadership feels over the way that communist regimes have crumbled in Eastern Europe.

The party General Secretary told China Central Television history had always progressed in a zig-zag way. It was all the more understandable that socialism — "a brand new system of government" —

would face "all kinds of twists and turns and encounter all kinds of difficulties in its development".

"We Communists are neither fortune-tellers nor fantasists," said Mr Jiang, as he delivered what seemed to have been a prepared text.

"I believe deeply that, being loyal to the people and working in a down-to-earth manner for national independence, the prosperity of the motherland and the development of the socialist cause, we will surely

be able to grasp the rules of history and win the final victory," he said.

The remarks were a watered-down version of his speech on National Day three months ago, when he predicted socialism would not only prove its superiority in China, but replace capitalism throughout the world.

Mr Jiang made only a veiled reference to last spring's anti-government student demonstrations, saying the party had paid "some price" in the

process of modernizing and opening up to the outside world. Despite disturbances in the present-day world "the general set-up had not changed", he said.

However, Chinese leaders are clearly worried about their political future. Since the execution of Nicolae Ceausescu troops have been put on alert. The number of paramilitary armed police at key installations, including television and radio headquarters, has been increased.

Hardliners defy orders on Turks

Sofia (Reuters) — Local Communist authorities in the Bulgarian town of Kardzhali yesterday defied party orders to restore full civil rights to the Turkish minority, thus jeopardizing the Government's efforts to pacify the Muslim population.

Father Ivan Bonev, the Orthodox priest in Kardzhali, which has a large Turkish population, said that local party officials met at the weekend and decided to ignore orders from Sofia to grant the Turks greater religious freedom and the right to use Muslim names.

"This sets the stage for a confrontation between the Bulgarian and Turkish communities," he said.

Father Bonev said the local party chiefs in Kardzhali, 140 miles south-east of Sofia, also decided not to allow Turks returning to the country to reclaim their homes and their jobs, despite pleas from the local party secretary to obey the orders from Sofia.

Kardzhali, with a population of 50,000, has traditionally been the most conservative and anti-Muslim town in the predominantly Turkish region.

One Western diplomat said he believed the Kardzhali authorities' decision was an isolated case and did not

reflect the general sentiment of the Bulgarian people.

The ruling Communist Party's Central Committee agreed on Saturday to end its suppression of the religious and ethnic minorities initiated by the ousted hardline party leadership under President Todor Zhivkov.

Mr Stanko Todorov, president of the Parliament, told hundreds of ethnic Turks demonstrating for religious freedom outside the National Assembly that the decision to grant them "ethnic freedom" took effect immediately.

Under President Zhivkov, who was removed last month as part of the popular revolu-

tion sweeping Eastern Europe, Bulgaria's 1.5 million ethnic Turkish minority and the native Bulgarian Muslims were forced to adopt Bulgarian names and drop their religion.

Some 300,000 ethnic Turks fled Bulgaria for Turkey last summer after several Turks were reported killed when police suppressed peaceful protests for Muslim rights.

Mr Petar Mladenov, the new Communist Party leader, has been eager to prove himself willing to make changes in Bulgaria since he ousted President Zhivkov and to show the emerging unofficial opposition parties that he is flexible.

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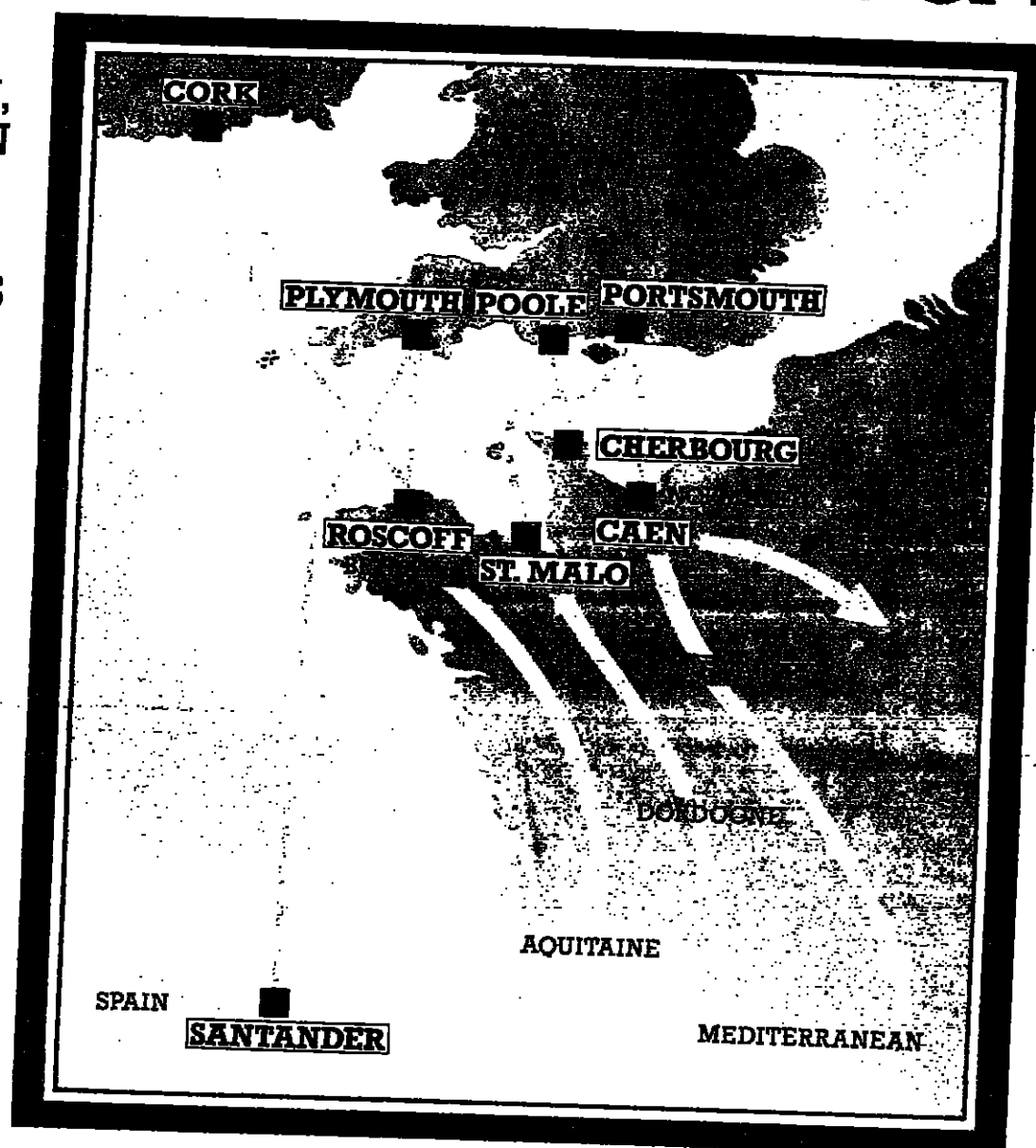
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Witnesses to history: How Times Correspondents saw the momentous events of 1989

Guards' jig marks fall of deadly Wall

From Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

Herr Günter Schabowski was clearly in a nervous mood on the night the Wall came down.

November 9 saw the usually blunt chief of the East Berlin communist party fumbling for words at the weekly press conference and delivering a turgid account of the past seven days' events in what East Germans, accustomed to the byzantine formulations of their leaders, then called "party-Chinese".

At 6.58pm he was visibly relieved to receive a note passed to him and announced that the most heavily fortified border in Europe was to be opened to all East Germans, whether for private travel or emigration. The bearer of the gladdest tidings his country had heard in 28 years rushed from the podium, tripping over his feet trying to escape the pursuing journalists.

The opening of the Wall was all too clearly a panic move by the tottering Government of the transient Mr Egon Krenz in a last attempt to hold on to power and prevent a storming of the concrete curtain by frustrated East Berliners.

Once it had been done, no one much cared why. It is usually a 10-minute walk from the press centre to Checkpoint Charlie but I discovered it is possible to make it in less than half the time with wings of good news on your feet. I dashed to the crossing point and told the guards the border they were so conscientiously guarding was now open.

They informed me that I was drunk, hallucinating or simply did not have "all my cups in the cupboard", as the oldest guard put it in an impenetrable Berlin dialect. But his younger colleagues

were beginning to look hopeful and when they received a telephone call from their command confirming the news they burst into hysterical laughter and performed an impromptu jig at the Checkpoint gate. Of all the astonishing sights of the following weekend, the dancing border guards, transformed in a minute from sour hinderers of

passage to human beings brimming with giddy sentiment, remains the most vivid.

I met one of the dancing guards the following night in the Eberswalder Strasse, where the first demolition of the Wall to create a new crossing point took place. He was off duty now, stripped of his pseudo-military regalia and said he just wanted to be there when the Wall fell.

"We were human, too, all those years," he said quietly as the cheers rang out around us. "But it always seemed unprofessional to show it. What do you think we dreamt of as we stamped your Western passports day in, day out?"

The Wall was breached fittingly in Prenzlauer Berg, a crumbling working-class district of the city, rich in proletarian history and known to Berliners East and West as the "Belly of Berlin" because of its prominent role in the city's history.

On its cobbled street the Nazis and Communists fought out their pitched battles of the thirties, and the workers' uprising of 1953 started its ill-fated march to the Brandenburg Gate from here.

Like extractions of giant rotting teeth, the first sections

were hoisted out and dumped in skips as the spectators scrambled to salvage souvenirs from the rubble.

The residents of the Eberswalder Strasse glimpsed their neighbours from a few houses away for the first time in 28 years and across the broken Wall, now looming as a jagged and strangely fragile construction under the midnight sky, gossip was unceremoniously resumed where it had been broken off a quarter of a century ago.

"Ach Steffan, still here are you? How's your mother?"

"Not so steady on her feet these days. Pop in for coffee sometime..."

Trays of schnapps with chunks of the Wall clinking in each glass were handed round.

The bulldozer driver was almost smothered with bouquets, thrust at him by the revellers but he regretfully refused the alcohol. "I'm not allowed to be drunk in charge of a wall. I've never done this before." By midnight, the crowds were sitting astride the Wall and the border guards' only remaining task was to stop the tipsy falling off.

The celebrations — singing, carousing and embracing — on the streets of West Berlin continued unabated for two days. For the next week, the city evinced the ethereal feel of a mass hangover. The political hangover is likely to be more lasting, as the old lady with tears in her eyes seemed to feel instinctively as she shook my hand across the Wall. "You will have many stories and many problems to report, but please remember always that tonight you saw the people of Berlin at their best, their very best."

All the journalists who covered the events in Tiananmen Square remember a moment when doubts about the students' ability to change anything became a realization that the demonstrators were creating history.

For me, the moment was Hu Yaobang's funeral. On the night of April 22, hundreds of thousands of students had filed into Tiananmen Square, singing, chanting and proud.

We waited with them through the night, expecting at any moment water cannon and tear gas — at that point these were the greatest horrors we could imagine. But as high-



June 5: A solitary student, blocking the advance of the tanks, pleading for an end to the massacre in Tiananmen Square.

Countdown to the bloodbath

From Catherine Sampson, Peking

On the early morning of June 4, we shivered on a balcony high above the Avenue of Eternal Peace.

Wrapped in blankets, and shouting to each other to keep down as bullets screamed past, we watched as the lights went out on Tiananmen Square and gunfire shook the night. We were helpless as the wave of protests that shook China were savagely crushed.

All the journalists who covered the events in Tiananmen Square remember a moment when doubts about the students' ability to change anything became a realization that the demonstrators were creating history.

I felt frozen and captured forever in a history-book illustration captioned "massive student demonstrations shook the very foundations of Communist Party power in the spring of 1989".

Joyful marches and tests of stamina followed — 20 miles in the burning heat, with young girls who looked no more than 15 piping slogans in high voices cracking under the strain. Ordinary people laugh-

ing and smiling and cheering and waving in a show of excitement and involvement, which heralded a complete break from the apathy of their normal lives.

I felt then, as I feel now, that it did not really matter in the long view of history whether or not they knew exactly what they were demanding. The image from the former party chief's funeral was clear — a geriatric and dictatorial leadership could not even begin to understand the vitality and urge for change of the young, and therefore should not rule them.

The students mimicked their leaders — we asked for interviews and were sometimes offered only written statements. Access to hunger strikers was limited, to student leaders difficult, and to seize weapons and army uniforms was impossible. I yelled in frustration at them: "You're calling for freedom of the press, don't you know what it is?"

After the declaration of martial law as everyone waited for the troops, euphoria became tinged with tension. On the afternoon of June 3, surreal confusions multiplied. Soldiers used tear gas for the first time. I was in a taxi with a BBC journalist who was about to broadcast live over the car phone.

The streets were jammed, the car was over-heating. I screamed at the driver to go on. We got to within 20 yards of the tear gas and helmeted troops. I spotted a fellow journalist and jumped out of the car to find out what was happening. He hissed urgently: "You see them, that's them. That's the secret police chiefs come to take charge."

But even as police wielded truncheons and we watched bloodied students carried from the square that afternoon, we had no real inkling of what was to come. We should all have taken more notice of the student leader, Chai Ling, who warned days before of the bloodbath which must follow.

Breath of fresh air for jaded nation

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The day that Solidarity formally took power in Poland, Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki arrived in Parliament through a side door. He wanted to pray. A month earlier he had been a Solidarity adviser: now he was the Soviet bloc's first non-communist Prime Minister.

The chamber of the Sejm (lower house) began to fill up noisily, like a church before a wedding. Mr Mazowiecki spoke with ecclesiastical cadence and pitch. He was not dancing on the grave of Marxism, merely presenting the problems that faced the post-Marxist state.

Suddenly Mr Mazowiecki swayed, gripped the podium, his grey face blanched. Within seconds he had been ushered out of the chamber. In a moment of physical frailty, 10 years of dreams seemed to collapse.

Rumours suffocate. I decided to join my wife and child in the Łazienki Royal

POLAND

Park for 15 minutes of fresh air. There, almost alone, talking to the birds, his jacket slung over his shoulders like a pre-war officer, was the new Prime Minister. Somehow he had disappeared from the Sejm.

Some people recognized him and started to clap. "That's our Premier," the children were told.

Back in Parliament, Mr Mazowiecki resumed to uneasy applause. "I want to apologize to Parliament," he said. "But that fainting spell was the result of weeks of very intensive work. When I broke off, I was speaking about the Polish economy. It seems that I've reached a similar state. Now I'm better, and I hope that's the way it will be with our economy, too."

Deputies — even communists — laughed out loud. Perhaps it was all going to be all right after all.

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Bush apology for 'screw-up' in Panama after American troops violate diplomatic territory

Ortega expels US diplomats over raid on home of envoy

From Susan Elliott, Washington

Relations between the United States and Nicaragua soured at the weekend after President Ortega expelled 20 diplomats from Managua in retaliation for a search by US troops of the home of the Nicaraguan Ambassador in Panama City.

President Bush called the search "a screw-up" and apologized. American officials struggled to explain why the soldiers appeared to have missed a plaque the size of a man-hole cover at the front of the residence that clearly identified the building as diplomatic territory.

The expulsion of 20 diplomats and 100 other staff from Nicaragua virtually rules out the likelihood of the United States being able to observe the campaign and voting for general elections scheduled for February 25 in Nicaragua.

The error is also likely to create indignation among the international community, especially Latin American countries, following sharp criticism from the United Nations last week of America's invasion of Panama.

The blunder also came as the White House was trying to prevent such condemnation of its military intervention from damaging its efforts to combat drug trafficking in Latin America. Last week, Peru reversed a decision to end joint interdiction programmes with Washington that it made in protest against the US invasion of Panama on December 20.

Nicaragua regarded the search, which turned up a cache of arms, as the second violation by the United States of international law in as many weeks. Under international law, diplomatic staff and buildings have total immunity from search, detention or capture without consent. The same rule bars American troops from seizing General Manuel Noriega from the Vatican mission in Pan-

ama City. US-Nicaragua relations were strained after the invasion of Panama when American forces mobilized outside the Nicaraguan Embassy in Panama City in the belief that General Noriega might have taken refuge inside. Nicaragua responded by placing an equivalent force outside the US Embassy in Managua.

So far, the United States has played down Latin American criticism of the Panama invasion as public posturing and has expressed confidence that regional leaders privately welcomed the overthrow of General Noriega. The search of the Nicaraguan envoy's home, however, could fan the region's nationalism, especially as Mr Bush prepares to attend a summit of Andean leaders in Miami (AFP).

Exiled Nicaraguan Contra rebel leaders promised to reduce violence in the weeks preceding the Nicaraguan elections on February 25. They said their 6,000 fighters would take up only defensive positions.

February to discuss a "drug war" strategy. President Garcia of Peru has already pulled out of the meeting in Cartagena, Colombia.

The worsening of relations with Nicaragua is also a setback in Mr Bush's attempts to improve contacts with the country and move away from his predecessor's concentration on Central America in his foreign policy agenda.

The State Department described President Ortega's expulsion order as "an irresponsible overreaction and clearly motivated by Nicaragua's desire to reduce the size of our mission before elections in February". The United States supports the Nicaraguan opposition party.

The Nicaraguan leader described the US soldiers as having acted "like Rambo's". One senior Nicaraguan of-

ficial said: "We are a small but proud country and we are not going to stand for that."

US officials offered conflicting accounts of the search, which was carried out on Friday night by several dozen soldiers with painted faces who fired warning shots before they entered the building.

The US Southern Command in Panama said that it searched the building after a tip-off from Panamanian sources about the existence of weapons inside. Mr Bush said that he regretted the incident but questioned why Señor Antenor Ferrey, the Nicaraguan Ambassador, had "arms up to his eye-balls" in his home.

The arms, which included four Uzi sub-machineguns, 12 semi-automatic rifles, grenade launchers and 17 bayonets, were returned as soon as the Army realized it had entered a diplomatic building.

One senior US Embassy official said the search was "a mistake", while a spokesman for the Southern Command, Colonel Ross Scowcroft, said the troops "did exactly what we should have done". He said that the ambassador's address was not the house they intended to search.

The State Department said the amount of weapons was more than would be required to defend the ambassador's home. In Washington, a lawyer representing Nicaragua, Mr Paul Reichler, said that the quantity of arms was probably no more than that kept at the US Embassy in Panama City for protection.

One senior US official said at the weekend he had incorrectly told reporters last week that American troops had arrested an Israeli mercenary, Mr Mike Harari, who is believed to be General Noriega's top adviser.

"We don't have him," the official said. "We are doubtful he's in the country at this time."



President Bush, with Mr Brent Scowcroft, the National Security Adviser, apologizing for the US blunder in Panama City.

Questions over Stealth mission

From James Bone, Rio Hato, Panama

The Panamanian Defence Forces base at Rio Hato will go down in military history as the place where the United States first committed its highly sophisticated and expensive radar-guided Stealth technology to combat.

On the night of the US invasion of Panama, an F-117 Stealth fighter made a secret mission from its hideaway in the Nevada desert to drop two 2,000lb bombs on Rio Hato. US officials, from Mr Richard Cheney, the Defence Secretary, to the local field commander, have expressed satisfaction with the fighter's performance, particularly its pinpoint accuracy.

But a visit to the former garrison and officer-training centre about 75 miles west of Panama City makes clear there was little military necessity to use Stealth, and that its results were questionable. Mr Cheney confirmed the

use of Stealth against Rio Hato during a visit to Panama on Christmas Day. "The Stealth dropped large weapons to stun the occupants," he said. "The reason it was used was because of its great accuracy."

Under political pressure to

show that the objective was not to bomb the barracks but to create confusion among the troops there. The garrison was home to the Machos de Monte, an elite commando unit.

"The plane eluded radar before dawn and bombed a

four failed to turn up any damage in the vicinity that could have come from a 2,000lb bomb. "If they did drop a 2,000lb bomb, they missed," one soldier said.

Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Brown, the US commander in central Panama, said that the Stealth fighter achieved its objective. "We were very pleased with its accuracy."

When asked where the bombs exploded, he said one scored a "dead centre" hit on the base's communication centre. But the communication centre was largely intact. Soldiers confirmed that there had been only pockets of resistance by Panamanian forces in the pre-dawn operation to seize the base.

Colonel Brown attributed that in part to the fact that Panamanian soldiers had been stunned by the Stealth mission.

Rome - Tension between the Vatican and the US over the presence of General Manuel Noriega in the Apostolic Nunciature in Panama is easing. American troops besieging the building have turned off the blaring rock music they had been playing. The Vatican Secretariat of State issued a statement denying reports of a diplomatic clash between Washington and the Holy See. It said: "The two sides have agreed to remain in close touch to examine together... the various aspects of the complex affair and the possibility of reaching a just solution."

justify the expense of the Stealth technology - the B2 Stealth bombers will cost \$500 million (£312 million) each - he praised the mission as having saved both Panamanian and US lives. A Pentagon spokesman said

field outside the military barracks housing Panamanian troops, the spokesman said. But the base was not equipped with radar, and was protected simply by eight anti-aircraft guns and searchlights. Furthermore, a helicopter

Military tactics backfire

From James Bone, Panama City

Even President Bush called the operation a "screw-up". The raid on the Nicaraguan Ambassador's residence on Friday night was the latest military action to backfire on the US forces in Panama.

The string of diplomatic embarrassments is being blamed on the tough tactics of General Maxwell Thurman, head of the US Southern Command (Southcom) who is known in the Army as "Maxatollah".

One example of his hard-driving approach was the decision to bombard the Vatican diplomatic mission, where the deposed Panamanian leader, General Manuel Noriega, has taken refuge, with rock music.

Access to the Cuban and Nicaraguan embassies has been restricted, and the Cuban Ambassador was stopped and questioned at a US roadblock.

Even friendly diplomats are angered by the US Army's failure to protect them from marauding bands of looters in the days after the invasion.

Before his appointment as the head of Southcom three months ago, General Thurman, aged 58, had not had a field command for 14 years.

With retirement mandatory after 36 years of service, he was due to step down when his friend, Mr Richard Cheney, the Defence Secretary, picked him for the Southcom posting.

General Thurman appears undaunted by the criticisms of his heavy-handed tactics. But the harassment of civil diplomatic buildings has not paid off. Relations between the US and Nicaragua have hit a new low after the expulsion of the 20 American diplomats after the raid on the ambassador's residence.

And protests from the Vatican have prompted the American military to end its rock music blitz on the Papal Nunciature, even though General Noriega remains inside.

A US diplomat said: "We were very sympathetic to the Papal Nuncio's plea that the music was keeping him awake while Noriega was sleeping soundly."

Burma steps up pressure to unnerve opposition leader and family

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok



Daw San Kyi faces growing abuse from the state media.

The Burmese Government, which already has banned many opposition figures from national elections next May, is increasing its harassment of the most prominent of its opponents, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest since last July when she won nationwide acclaim as a key figure in the struggle for democracy.

The government-controlled media lately have increased their verbal abuse and Rangoon-based

diplomats say the authorities also appear to be going out of their way to exert psychological pressure on her. Diplomats say that the show of military force around her house and near her father's mausoleum has increased recently.

A senior Western diplomat said that her army guards are changed frequently, sometimes every few days, because of fears that the prolonged contact with her might make them too sympathetic. Daw San Kyi, aged 44, has been teaching English to her guards and discussing Burmese history with them.

Undoubtedly they would be fascinated by conversations with the daughter of Burma's national hero, Aung San, who led the country to independence.

Daw San Kyi's husband, Dr Michael Aris, a fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford, is now visiting his wife, according to the diplomats. He is escorted by an armed guard when he leaves the compound. At other times her only companion is an aged aunt.

Her two schoolboy sons could not visit their mother at Christmas and New Year because their Bur-

mese passports were recently cancelled. They are at home in Oxford. Daw San Kyi receives letters from her family, but the telephone is cut off.

Since her arrest the Government has put pressure on Daw San Kyi and her husband and sons to persuade her to give up politics and return to England.

Dr Aris has ruled that out, saying: "My wife's priority is democracy in Burma." His, he added, was the education of their children and keeping the family together. After the trial and conviction

last month of her party colleague, General Tin Oo, many in Burma wonder if the Government will dare put Daw San Kyi on trial. The charges against her are similar to those against the general, who was sentenced to three years' hard labour.

Even under house arrest, which the Government said would last a year or longer, she will not be able to stand in the elections for which she has registered as a candidate. They will be the first multi-party polls in 29 years.

The Government is under severe

international pressure to allow her and all sections of the opposition to contest the elections freely and fairly.

The only party with a free hand is the National Unity Party, a new name for the Burma Socialist Programme Party, which ruled for 26 years. It has taken over the organization, membership and financial resources of the BSPP.

Other parties have been paralysed by the arrest of more than 5,000 of their members and the ban on public gatherings and access to the media.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Seoul MPs break up Chun hearing

Seoul (AP) - Testimony by Mr Chun Doo Hwan, the disgraced former South Korean President, was abruptly adjourned yesterday as MPs jostled one another and opposition members called Mr Chun "murderer." One MP hurled a wooden nameplate at the committee investigating alleged wrongdoing under Mr Chun's seven-year administration. Mr Chun was hurried out.

The fracas started when Mr Chun - in his 10th hour of testimony on alleged corruption, human rights abuses and misconduct - discussed the 1980 Kwangju uprising, which opposition leaders believe Mr Chun, used to seize power. Two hundred people were killed and 1,500 wounded.

Ethiopians to be freed

Beirut (AFP) - The Eritrean People's Liberation Front will soon free the 10,000 Ethiopian prisoners of war it is holding, the group announced here yesterday. The statement said more than 2,500 prisoners would be released in the next few days, with another 8,000 to be freed in the near future. The decision reflected an improvement in conditions in the home villages of the detainees, the front said. Released detainees were no longer likely to be subjected to witch-hunts by the Addis Ababa regime, it added.

Quake toll reaches 12

Sydney - The final toll of last week's earthquake in Newcastle was 12 dead and more than 150 injured, police said yesterday (Robert Cockburn writes). The last bodies were recovered from a devastated workers club as perils began to emerge of a city built on foundations riddled with old mining tunnels and cosmetic work by modern developers. The number of homeless is rising as city engineers make the decision to order people out of dangerous homes and more and more of the wrecked inner city is demolished.

Lee to quit in a year

Singapore (Reuters) - Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the Prime Minister of Singapore, said yesterday in a new year message that he would step down by the end of 1990 after ruling the island nation for three decades, and would be succeeded by Mr Goh Chok Tong, the Deputy Prime Minister. Mr Lee, aged 66, has ruled with a firm hand since the former British colony became self-governing in 1959. In previous statements, Mr Lee has made it clear he intended to guide Singapore even after retirement.

Sniper kills boy of 5

Beirut (Reuters) - A sniper killed Rafik Rizkallah, aged five, in Beirut yesterday, as he played on a balcony at his home in Christian east Beirut, near the city's dividing "green line", while his parents were preparing for new year's eve. He was hit in the stomach by a sniper's bullet fired from Syrian-controlled Muslim west Beirut.

Weizman sacked over PLO talks

From A Correspondent, Jerusalem

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday surprised his Cabinet by announcing that he had dismissed Mr Ezer Weizman, the Science Minister, for allegedly meeting Palestine Liberation Organization leaders.

Mr Shamir went on national television to explain his decision. Mr Weizman, he said, "holds contact with them (the PLO), instructs them on how to combat our arguments." The Prime Minister added: "If I were to keep silent I would be an accomplice to a scandal."

Mr Shamir said, however, he felt there was "no need to break up the Government" over the dismissal.

The Israeli Government considers the PLO to be a terrorist organization and Israeli law bans meetings with PLO officials. The move by Mr Shamir, who heads the right-wing Likud party, triggered a political crisis. The respected Mr Weizman is a member of the Labour Party and a leading proponent of peace talks with the PLO. Likud and Labour have had a shaky coalition since November, 1988, but have been increasingly at odds over how to deal with proposals from the United States to get the peace process moving. Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour Party leader, told Israeli Radio: "Whoever decided on this step will have to bear the consequences."

Mr Weizman, for his part, was not unhappy. He told reporters that his dismissal could "force the Government to make decisions it has been avoiding."

It was unclear when Mr Weizman allegedly met PLO officials. There were reports last June that Mr Weizman had talked with senior PLO officials in Geneva, but his spokesman denied this. Another Cabinet minister, Mr

Ehud Olmert, who is responsible for Arab affairs, told reporters yesterday that Mr Weizman "also had contacts with Yasser Arafat (the PLO leader) via messengers." He gave no other details.

Mr Weizman, aged 65, was Defence Minister from 1977 to 1980, having earlier been a fighter pilot who headed the Israeli Air Force. He joined the RAF in 1942 and fought in the Western Desert campaign. He later flew missions in Egypt and India before leaving the service in 1946.

He studied aeronautics in Britain before leaving school to begin building the Jewish state air corps.

In a recent interview with the *Jerusalem Post*, Mr Weizman called on Mr Shamir "to remove the taboo" on dealings with the PLO. "Today, the only party able to deliver what it promises in the territories is the PLO. After

the entire world has recognized this, it is time we do so as well," he stated.

● BAGHDAD: Mr Yasser Arafat, head of the PLO, denied yesterday that members of organization had had contacts with Mr Weizman (AFP reports).

He acknowledged that PLO members had tried two years ago to meet the Israeli minister but said they had failed.

● Police accused Israeli peace activists yesterday of excessive force and over-reaction in breaking up small groups of demonstrators during the weekend's "human chain" around Jerusalem's Old City.

The peace event, called 1990 Time For Peace, drew 15,000 Israeli activists and Palestinians. They linked hands in a symbolic call for unity and negotiations.

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Bowing out: Mr Weizman after his dismissal yesterday.

UK rejects Chinese attack

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor

The Government denied yesterday that its plan to allow 30,000 Hong Kong families to live in Britain was a breach of an agreement with China.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Saturday described the plan as a "gross violation" of the Sino-British Joint Declaration of 1984 on the return of Hong Kong to China in 1997.

The statement was seen as a setback at a time when relations were beginning to recover from strains caused by Peking's suppression of the pro-democracy movement.

The Foreign Ministry said it was "very surprised" by the plan. It called on Britain to drop it, "otherwise, it will have to bear a series of consequences arising therefrom."

Peking argues that the plan

cuts across a British memorandum attached to the agreement that Hong Kong citizens with British passports will be able to use the passports after July 1, 1997, "without conferring the right of abode in the United Kingdom."

A Chinese memorandum attached to the accord says that "all Hong Kong Chinese compatriots... are Chinese nationals".

The Foreign Office denied that the plan was inconsistent with the memorandum. "We remain fully committed to the joint declaration and to its full and faithful implementation," it said.

Whitehall sources added that Britain had always said the aim of the plan was to give key Hong Kong residents the confidence to stay there.

However, Mr Robert Adley,

MP for Christchurch and chairman of the all-party British-Chinese Parliamentary Group, said he had warned the Foreign Office that the plan would anger the Chinese.

"This action by Britain is a clear abuse of both the spirit and letter of the 1984 agreement. It is one of the most serious mistakes the Foreign Office has made for a long time," he said.

"What we, the British and Hong Kong governments, are silently telling the Chinese is that we trust neither the ability nor the good intentions of the Chinese to honour their part of the 1984 agreement."

Sir David Wilson, Governor of Hong Kong, is due to visit Peking on January 10 for the first time since the June crackdown on the pro-democracy demonstrations.

President Aquino of the Philippines yesterday announced a drastic reorganization of her Cabinet three weeks after an attempted military coup triggered demands for reforms in her Government.

Speaking on national television, Mrs Aquino said nine ministers of the Cabinet's 19 full departments were being replaced.

The two most powerful Cabinet members - Mr Catalino Macarati, the Executive Secretary, and General Fidel Ramos, the Defence Secretary, - were not replaced.

General Ramos, who is believed to have ambitions to become the next President, helped to crush the recent military as well as five previous attempts.

Mrs Aquino said: "The

From A Correspondent, Manila

threat of these changes is the need always to adjust the new situation to adjust the new situation to assure not only continued but more importantly improved delivery of service by Government to our people."

She also introduced a new Cabinet management system that will oversee political, economic and public welfare affairs.

The new Cabinet is: Executive Secretary and Presidential Co-ordinator for Political and Security Affairs: Catalino Macarati; Defence Secretary: Fidel Ramos; Local Government Secretary: Luis Santos; Foreign Affairs Secretary: Raul Manglapus; Justice Secretary: Franklin Drilon; Finance Secretary: Jesus Estanislao; Trade Secretary: Jose Concepcion; Public Works and Highways Sec-

retary: Fiorello Estar; Agrarian Reform Secretary: Florencio Abad; Agriculture Secretary: Senen Bacani; Social Welfare Secretary: Mita Pardo de Tavera; Transport and Communications Secretary: Oscar Orbes; Education Secretary: Isidro Carino; Tourism Secretary: Peter Garrucho; Science Secretary: Celerino Follosco; Budget Secretary: Guillermo Carague; Press Secretary: Tomas Gomez; Economic Planning Secretary (acting): Cayetano Pedranga; Labor Secretary (acting): Dionisio dela Serna; Presidential Spokesman: Adolfo Azuma; Presidential Co-ordinator for Economic and Financial Affairs: Vicente Jayme; Presidential Co-ordinator for Resource and Welfare Affairs: Jose De Jesus.

Answers

TIMES DIARY

SHERIDAN MORLEY

Terry Hands's successor as artistic director of the RSC will probably be named at the time of the mid-January press conference announcing forthcoming productions. Insider money seems to be on John Caird, Trevor Nunn's co-director for *Les Misérables* and *Nicholas Nickleby*, since it is reported that Nunn himself has declined to return in an official capacity to Stratford, though he will direct a couple of shows there this summer.

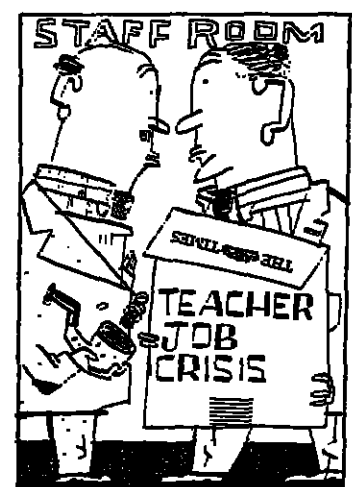
A more intriguing rumour is that Caird will be given the job only in tandem with David Jones, another distinguished RSC contract director who has also had experience (admittedly often traumatic) of running the Brooklyn Academy in New York. If the RSC has indeed learnt from the success of the producer-director double act of David Aukin and Richard Eyre at the National, then Stratford may begin to pull itself together for the 1990s.

But these lessons are learnt painfully and slowly: all of 15 years ago, on a British Council tour of Russia, Nunn and I asked the director of the Moscow Arts Theatre what he was currently rehearsing. "I run one of the greatest theatres in the world," he replied. "I have other people to do the rehearsing and the acting."

Despite mixed, not to say hostile, reviews of Dennis Potter's *Blackeyes* on television before Christmas, the cover of the paperback of the original novel trumpets a review which reads "Top Tip for Booker Prize". The quote is from *The Sunday Independent*. Odd, I thought, since the *Sunday* edition has yet to make its debut. It turns out to be the Dublin *Sunday Independent*.

Starting to take down the Christmas cards, I am yet again struck by the marathon effort and expense of reminding distant cousins that I have not yet fallen under a bus and therefore am still eagerly awaiting their legacy, if any. How much better and more thoughtful to send out, as John Julius Norwich has been doing for twenty years, a collection of seasonal quotations entitled *A Christmas Cracker*. This year's highlight is his discovery of a little-known Chinese proverb: "It is no good going early to bed to save candles, if the result be twins." The good news is that Penguin are about to publish a second hardback anthology for those of us who enjoyed (or missed) the earlier years.

BARRY FANTONI



"Have you thought what you'll do when you leave school?"

As I am about to start a new life with the New Year, as *The Times* television critic, I have a question of some importance. If, because of schedule clashes or early deadlines, I am unable to review a programme on transmission, I simply ring any of the ITV or Channel 4 independent production companies and, whether located in Pilchory or Penzance, it gets a cassette of the show to me, usually in about half an hour.

If, however, the programme is going out on BBC1 or 2, I have to enter an altogether different world. It is not that BBC press officers are in other ways any less helpful or courteous than their ITV opposites; it is just that if you ask for a cassette, they react as if you had asked to disembowel the director general.

Now topical programmes are often edited up to the time of transmission, but even with programmes put to bed several weeks earlier, the BBC seems to be amazed that one might want to see an advance copy at home, rather than trekking to its headquarters on the one morning of the week when it graciously provides a screening.

The BBC must by now have heard of the invention of the video cassette, if only because it is fervently plugging several of its own in every possible programme junction. But by continuing to refuse to issue them, the Corporation often loses out in review space to the ITV companies, which thoughtfully make most of their shows available on individual tapes to critics and previewers. This in turn infuriates the BBC's producers and directors, so in the end nobody wins except possibly an accountant far removed from the field of programme battle. Surely it cannot be all that expensive for White City to buy a batch of blank cassettes?

Luz, Algarve
It has been a quiet year in this part of the Algarve. The local English-language paper, a fortnightly tabloid holding the respectable sentiments of a broadsheet, published a news review in the final issue of 1989 in which a longish paragraph is devoted to each month. Much of the review concerns Britons held without trial in the local nick — for the transgressions of tourists tend to be either too trivial to merit instant attention by the courts, or so serious as to be subject to infinite postponement.

In the trivial category, one Stephen Walker has been locked up in Faro since August 1988 on charges connected with stolen credit cards. A fortnight ago the justices remanded his case until January 8 so that he could spend a second Christmas in jail.

In April Mr Alan Waldo, a police constable, was tried twelve months after being incarcerated on a charge of killing his wife in a jacuzzi in Portimão. He was

Bernard Levin reluctantly comes to terms with the harsh facts of time and technology and decides, with the birth of the new decade, to lay two long-serving companions to rest

Farewell, my faithful friends

Ring in the new, but this New Year is the one in which I shall mark two milestones, each of which has a profound meaning, both real and symbolic, for my life. You may think, when I tell you what they concern, that I am being absurd, or at least sentimental. Well, I have never thought ill of sentimentality — it is, after all, one aspect of being human — and for that matter I can't see what is so frightful about absurdity either. Anyway, here are the two markers: I shall say goodbye to my typewriter and to my wristwatch.

Curiously, both of them are closely associated with my father, though I remember nothing of him from my infancy, and met him later only once. But it was he who sent me, as a present for my 17th birthday, the watch, and who also gave me the money, somewhat later, to buy the typewriter.

Both lie before me on my desk; indeed, this is being typed on one of my beloved old friends, and I have just been given the time from the other.

The watch is a black-faced Movado, with Arabic numerals (nowadays confined almost entirely to children's watches, and frequently accompanied by Mickey Mouse) in gold; the hands are rather big for the face, but they are not the original, though it has been to the menders remarkably seldom. It has a tiny second hand, which has become more difficult to read as my eyes have lost their power, which was never very great to start with. (I have told elsewhere the story of the day I discovered I had wretchedly poor sight, and of the unbelievable joy with which I was filled when I first donned my spectacles and saw a new-born world, the very existence of which I had never until then suspected.) I don't know if the firm of Movado still exists, but if it does, it may take this as a heartfelt tribute to the enduring quality of its craftsmanship.

Now it is in my hand; I turn it over. The back has been repaired; over so many years, and the tens of thousands of times I put it on and took it off, the metal wore right through; I had it neatly patched. The inscription is still perfectly legible, though it has collected verdigris. I always smile at it, because the engraver made a mistake; it reads, following the dial, From Dad to Bernard. I used to toy with the notion of using that more exotic form of my name, like Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands (though look what happened to him), but I gave up the idea as too posh.

Forty-four years have passed since my 17th birthday; an unimaginable span. Can I really have lived so long? I listen to the watch's tiny heart; a watch ticks two and a half times a second —

my calculator, please. (Were I to live to be a thousand, I would never feel for that cold creature — aptly named — anything like the affection my watch and my typewriter inspire.) An amazing, unbelievable figure: one and three quarters thousand million times my little friend has said tick, and one and three quarters thousand million times it has said tock. Surely it deserves its retirement? But why is it being retired anyway?

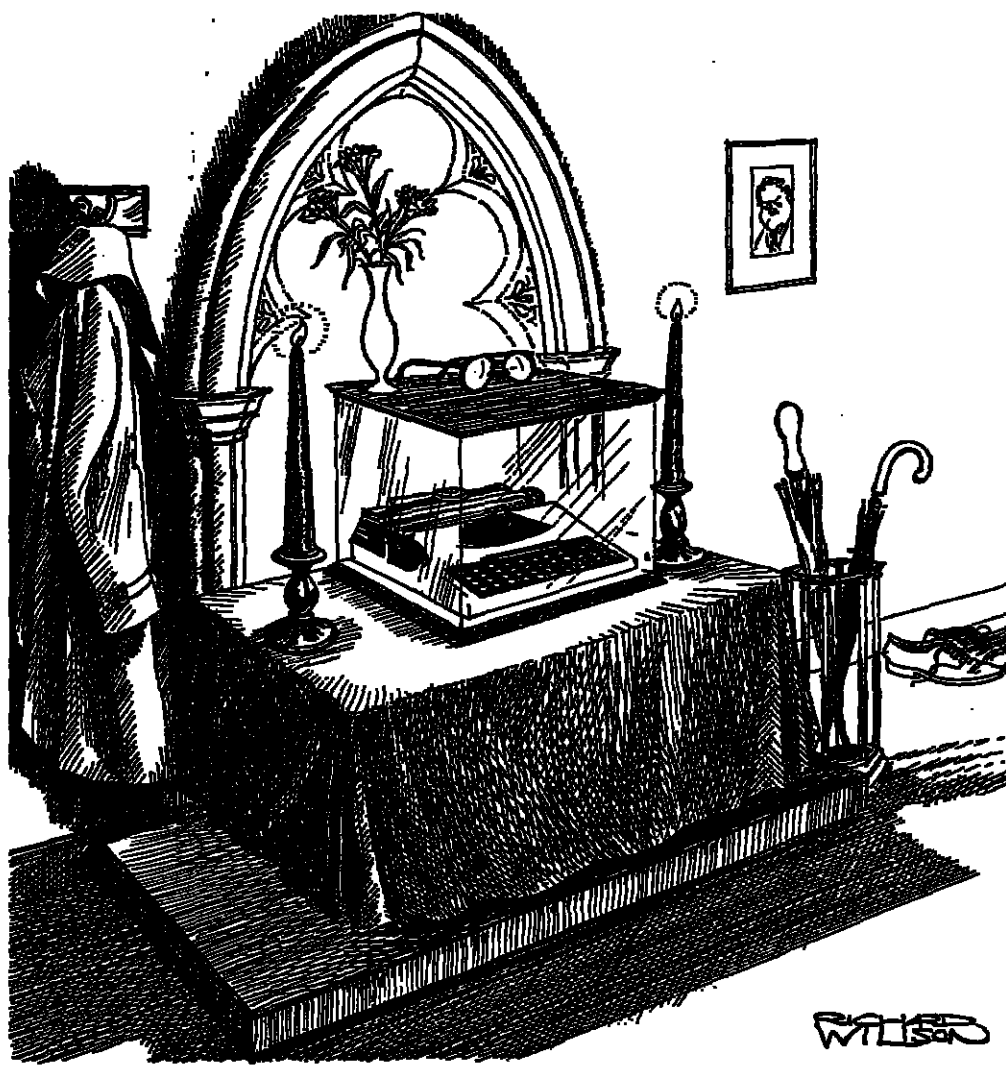
Because, for all its loyalty, the years have made their mark. It began to fail a few years ago, and every watchmaker I took it to shook his head and said words to the effect of "It can't go on for ever, you know." Nor can I, I did hope that we could go together, but I have outlasted my friend. It had a reprieve, when the great Mr Rosenberg of Newcastle upon Tyne said he could keep it going (he made clear that he thought little of London watchmakers), and he did; but after a time, even his magic tweezers were not enough. Mr Rosenberg has himself now retired; this is getting mournful.

Here is my other, younger brother, my baby Olivetti; it cost £12 new in 1951. I had already learned to type, at a secretarial college, between school and university; I also learned shorthand, though I had not then begun to think of a career, let alone the one I finally chose. Or was chosen by: I became a journalist by accident, and stayed one. Just as well; I have no other talent whatever, even in the most modest and rudimentary form. I can't paint or compose, or write novels; I couldn't be a businessman or financier; I would be impossible as a teacher and a disaster as an actor.

My mother wanted me to be a lawyer; if I had been, would I now be telling all those pork pies about my noble, selfless, admirable, wholly perfect profession, so vilely traduced by that horrible man in *The Times* and facing its imminent destruction at the hands of the wicked Lord Mackay?

My father, I learned, had wanted me to be either a doctor or an engineer; never in all history could there have been two more inapposite vocations. If I had chosen medicine, there wouldn't be a patient alive for a dozen miles around; if engineering, not a bridge standing for three the radius. So journalism it was, and is, nor can I complain that I have lacked success in my trade: Dead Sea Fruit through the plaudits, have been, I have plucked them, and swallowed. Anyhow, my little typewriter, the only one I have ever owned, has accompanied me everywhere, a *fidelis Achates* as precious as the watch.

The figures cannot be as exact



Now I have a new watch with a quartz movement, and a machine that will count my words and tell me how many more I have to do. And will it count my heartbeats, and tell me how many more of those I have? Would I want it to?

as the watch's tick; suppose I have typed fifteen million words on my Olivetti (and it must be something like that), then allowing for punctuation and similar superlatives, I must have struck my friend a hundred million times. But he has never complained. (Olivetti may now step forward for its congratulations, and shake hands with Movado.)

From time to time, the typewriter, like the watch, has seized up; at first, there was no problem about overhauls, but as the years went by, fewer and fewer firms would — or could — deal with it. I

was on the verge of giving in, when, just as I was being dismissed by a supercilious receptionist, a mechanic passed through the room and saw my baby on the counter; his eyes lit up, and he said "A Lettera 22! I haven't had my hands on one of those for years. Gimme." It transpired that he had a dead one in the basement, and for some time he cannibalized it to supply my own friend's deficiencies. I had a special holder made for it; it fitted into its own compartment, and the rest of the case made a neat portable office. I have never been a roving corres-

pondent, or wanted to be; still, my friend has been with me at an American presidential convention, a comprehensive tour of the Moscow theatre, a call on the "Father of the H-Bomb" (Dr Edward Teller), a clandestine meeting in Soweto, a visit to Dachau, an interview with Bobby Kennedy and another with — ahem — Lee Kuan Yew (watch this space), innumerable British party conferences, at least six journeys round the world (it is round), dozens of music festivals, and the last transatlantic voyage of the Queen Mary, there and back. All my books have been typed on it; so have infinite quantities of articles, notes, memoranda and correspondence. I have even written love-letters on it, which may be one of the reasons I am still unmarried. (Mind you, my handwriting would itself be grounds for divorce.)

And why, then, is my other hero to be put out to grass? After all, he is still in very reasonable condition, apart from a tendency to jump a space or two and a reluctance to print the bottom half of the lower-case m. No, I am retiring him for no much sadder reason; very soon now, I shall be going over to all-computerized writing. I have

resisted it for a long time, not only on my friend's behalf, but from a deep suspicion of the new technology. (I am firmly convinced that the fax machine is black magic, and that those who use it will eventually be burned at the stake.) But I have got used to the green glass screen at *The Times*, and there are real and massive advantages in being thus linked to the system into which, after all, my words go.

Forty-four years of my wristwatch; only six fewer years of my typewriter; sixty-one of my life; I sometimes wonder what I have got to show for it all. Apart, that is, from a new watch with a quartz movement, and a machine that will count my words and tell me how many more I have to do. And will it count my heartbeats, and tell me how many more of those I have? Would I want it to?

I don't know. Disillusion is common in men of my age, but let my coevals take heart; the nation's oldest journalist is no better off than they. Indeed, he is very much worse off, for he has a gigantic dictionary of quotations in his head, and one, from William James, pierces him every time it comes to mind (more and more often, alas): "... born of the bitch-goddess success".

But what would you have had me do? "I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed." My friends the watch and the typewriter were for four decades the props of my life, and I must now steel myself to make friends of cold strangers on my wrist and my desk, though even when I was young I made friends slowly and with great fear. Yet those two instruments may stand as symbols of the richest, most sunlit part of my life, which has been precisely the part played by my friends; indeed, I truly believe that I have been not just exceptionally fortunate to have friends so steadfast and understanding, but blessed, in them, more than among all men upon earth. Let that be my epitaph; the disappointments can be carved, in smaller letters, on the verso of my tombstone.

Meanwhile, two of my oldest friends are to retire. But the ceremony must be appropriate. They care nothing for speeches and dinners; they were two honest working-men, and they shall be treated as such. I am having made two glass cases, one large enough to hold the typewriter, the other, small, for the wristwatch. I have found the place where they are to stand, in my hall, and the watch shall rest upon the typewriter — after all, they never quarrelled with one another. And for an inscription they want no flowery words or hollow phrases. On each, there shall be a brass plate, and on each plate the only fitting words: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant".

No man is an island—except in ignorance

Raymond Plant argues that charity can no longer end at home

Attending matins at Winchester Cathedral last week I began to think about the connection between charity and sins of omission. In the General Confession, in Cranmer's immortal language, we confess that "We have left undone those things which we ought to have done."

This has always worried me, especially in relation to charity. There are an indefinitely large number of things which I have not done. Which among them ought I to have done? What harm have I caused by my inaction and how far am I responsible for the harm which may follow from my own failure to be more charitable? How wide is the circle of moral concern and of moral responsibility in relation to the failure to act? If the money which I spent on that expensive pen at Christmas had been sent to Oxfam and could have saved someone from starving, am I in any sense responsible for that anonymous person's death?

There is one robust answer to this sort of question, based on

the claim that charity begins at home. The argument here is that the circle of moral concern should primarily encompass family and friends, whose needs are directly known to me. Beyond this I do not have a strong moral obligation, and certainly my failure to act does not mean that I am responsible for the harm which may befall others because of their lack of resources. On this view charity is to be based on a real, living relationship, of the sort that I can have with friends, neighbours, relations and fellow countrymen.

Certainly this attitude can prick an element of hypocrisy about a more generalized and anonymous form of charity, the sort satirized by Dickens in the figure of Mrs Jellyby in *Bleak House*. Mrs Jellyby was more concerned with the natives of Borrioboola-Gha on the left bank of the Niger than about the needs of her own household. It is also a theme in the strictures of

Burke on the rather shallow and anonymous love of humanity, compared to the loyalty to the little platoon.

On this view, charity and concern for others should primarily be in terms of face-to-face relationships. We should therefore be generous and charitable to those belonging to our immediate community; we have no generalized duty to the anonymous mass of humanity as a whole.

This conception of charity also links with an idea found in some thinkers on the New Right, such as Hayek: that the capacity for charitable giving is very limited, not so much by money but by motivation, which is most likely to be stirred by family and friends. Again there is an important issue here. Even Bob Geldof has talked about compassion fatigue. To overcome this we need to make sure that giving is directed at those whose needs can make the most personal and immediate impact on us, and these are of the commu-

nity of which we are a part.

Finally, the unsentimental critic of charity will argue that it is false to think that we can do harm by our inaction except in the most limited cases. We cause harm only by our failure to act when our behaviour is circumscribed by contract or by rules. If we fail to discharge a contract for which we have a responsibility, our inaction harms the other party. Outside such circumscribed areas, however, there are no real sins of omission. We are not related to humanity as a whole through either contract or rules.

But how compatible is this limited view of charity with Christianity? Christ invited us to reflect on who is our neighbour; so how wide, if we follow Christ's teaching, is the circle of our concern, and thus of moral responsibility? I do not want to try to provide an exegesis of the parable of the Good Samaritan since this has been picked over by the left and the right, includ-

ing the Prime Minister in her 1988 speech in Edinburgh. Nevertheless, one theme in the story is that the Samaritan was not part of the local community; he was an outsider, and a rather despised outsider at that. From a Christian perspective this should make us worry about our sphere of duty being limited to family, community and nation.

These are institutions which conservatives naturally and rightly cling to, but in a religion which recognizes the whole of humanity for which Christ died, it is not clear that our moral responsibilities are adequately discharged if they are so confined. If the Jeweller and instant communications has made the world a global village, it seems anachronistic in matters of duty and charity, to attach great significance to local or national boundaries. Of course, the charities have learned from the critique of generalized charity by trying to personalize it, by putting into advertisements

photographs of individuals who can be helped, or specific children who can be sponsored and with whom the donor can develop a personal relationship.

If, however, we believe in a more generalized duty of charity we are back with the problem with which I started. Am I responsible for all the harm which my inaction rather than action could have prevented? If such harm is a foreseeable consequence of my failure to act, can I limit my moral responsibility by putting myself in a position in which I am unaware of the consequences of that failure to act? To limit my moral responsibility I should not read or watch television reports of drought and disaster. I should not look at charity advertisements. Such ignorance would make for moral bliss, a limited moral responsibility, following from limited knowledge of the world and my capacity to act in it. Does watching the news or buying newspapers widen our circle of moral duty?

The author is Professor of Politics at Southampton University.

The whiting man's burden



CLEMENT
FREUD

pronounced them all to be not quite right. The doyen gave her Giacomini smile. He left. She examined a piece of paper brought by a very young girl and wrapped up a chainsaw in floral paper. I was next in the queue — but the woman behind me said something fast in Portuguese and was served with eight metres of

chicken wire, whereafter the old boy behind her bought a paintbrush. There being no one else in the place whom she could possibly serve, she turned to me. She had run out of Superglue. I would like that hour back.

March: I went to a new restaurant that had opened on the site of a previously bad restaurant. It was worse, though the service was endearing. The current owners are Dutch and the wife explained that they had bought it because the food had a reputation for disgustingness and she didn't think her cooking would be any worse. I wished her a successful season. She hoped I would come back often. I hoped not.

June: The pace of things was hotting up a bit. Three restaurants opened on the road that faces the beach. They sell grilled

sole, fried plaice and hake in a tomato sauce. We have a theory that it is all whiting. Portuguese restaurants manage to make most fish taste like whiting.

August: Our nearest newspaper allocation amended. She now gets one copy of the previous day's *Times* instead of six... but twenty-nine *Sporting Lives*. The solitary copy of *The Times* is kept for Mrs Jenkins, who is the senior customer of the shop. I changed newspapers.

September: A Scotsman opened a restaurant on the road to Sagres in which he features Singin' Hinnies — which are lard cakes speckled with currants and bearing the unmistakable taste of cream of tartare. He cooks them on a griddle lubricated with mutton fat, turning them when

the first side is brown. Cut horizontally in half and buttered, Singin' Hinnies can be served with anything — like whiting. October: Two expats rent a bar in Burgau and do takeaway juggled rabbit as a sideline. The woman has great empathy with rabbits. The man sells them to restaurants that have British customers. November: The rabbit man disappears with the couple's car and four portions of juggled r. December: My younger daughter and I tie for the Great Handkerchief of Luz — she to hold the hank until June, then me. Both of us promise not to use it. On Saturday we go to see *The Abyss*, probably the most incomprehensible film I have ever seen about something at the bottom of the sea which is not us. The Portuguese subtitles are shown halfway up the screen. There is an interval after an hour and a half and the British audience, to a man, goes into the night. Perhaps it is a film that makes more sense in subtitles.



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BRAVE NEW WORLD

The 1980s demonstrated, with a clarity that could not have been anticipated when the decade opened, the intimate relationship between political and economic freedoms. The great crusading political advocates of that thesis, President Ronald Reagan and Mrs Thatcher, gave momentum to a tide of political pluralism and economic liberalization which has swept the shores of all the continents.

The political map has been transformed in Eastern Europe. Latin America, dominated as the 1980s began by military dictatorships, ended the decade with the crowning triumph of free elections in Chile and Brazil. South Koreans disproved the theory that democracy was alien to their culture. Even in sub-Saharan Africa, where civil checks and balances are weakest, governments began to recognize that they exercised only a tenuous leasehold on power. Markets are great levellers of ideology; they are also, in conjunction with civil liberties, great democratizers — because they increase the power of individual citizens.

The transformation in political thinking worldwide cannot be measured solely by counting the numbers of countries which have formally escaped dictatorship. The communications revolution has proved, to the benefit of democracy, that knowledge is indeed power.

Because knowledge has become accessible to more and more people, no government, however repressive or corrupt, can enter the 1990s without sensing that it will be called to account. In the 1980s, North Korea and Albania apart, the global village became a reality. Not even Romania or Burma remained closed. Through China's "open door" to economic reforms, breezes of political liberation blew until they were stifled by the brutal repression following last June's massacre in Tiananmen Square.

The 1980s did not see the death of ideology: far from it. The resurgence of Islam as an all-encompassing political and religious system demonstrated that where there is extreme inequality and civil liberties are suppressed, totalitarianism can still seduce. But so strong was the tide of liberalization that the doctrinaire political philosophies of the 20th century, communism and socialism, were forced in order to survive to adapt in ways that deprive them of much of their doctrinal force.

That has been most dramatically evident in Eastern Europe. *Glasnost* and *perestroika* were born of President Gorbachev's political wisdom in confronting the reality that economic regeneration was incompatible with ideological rigidity. But in Western Europe too, the conventional left was forced into retreat. In Britain, Labour struggled to modernize its thinking, and the market-driven socialism of Spain or France today bears little relation to the state-directed socialism of 1980.

Under the joint pressures of technological change, the accompanying revolution in communications, and the globalization of markets, thinking about the role of government has been transformed. Within a remarkably brief span of years, the assessment of what the state can and cannot do has gained immeasurably in sophistication.

The political and economic mobility of the 1980s, difficult to underestimate, will have consequences which the final decade of this century must struggle to absorb. It will have to contend with the potential diplomatic imbalances created by the budgetary constraints on the United States coupled with the rapid rise to economic eminence of a country, Japan, which is still a long way from developing a corresponding political culture.

Progress towards unification of the European continent may have begun, but the resurgence of nationalist tensions will complicate the already difficult transition from

communism to democracy. The "end of the Cold War" does not necessarily mean that either superpower has renounced hegemonic ambition, only that the Soviet Union has been forced to recognize that it can only hope to exercise global influence if it ceases to be an "Upper Volta with rockets" and integrates successfully with the global economy — and if it modernizes its political culture. Such a strategy requires co-operation with the United States, with Japan — and with Western Europe, if the instability accompanying modernization in its fissiparous empire is to be contained.

The "North" cannot afford to absorb itself too exclusively with these issues. North-South confrontation weakened in the 1980s. That was due to several factors. The solidarity of the "South", a potent political myth in the 1970s, lost some of its potency as Opec's ability to affect the global economy weakened, and some governments, notably in prosperous East Asia, began to have more in common with the industrialized world to which they now belonged than with the impoverished countries of Africa. But at the outset of the 1990s, the outline of a new and potentially more dangerous North-South divide is discernible.

East-West cooperation, for one thing, is for the first time making a reality of the "Northern" side of the equation. This development, so long treated as the prerequisite for international peace, is viewed in the Third World with considerable nervousness, reflected in a new phrase, "bipolar triumphalism".

The tearing down of the Iron Curtain presents weaker countries with the prospect of a condominium of the relatively prosperous — and deprives their governments of the opportunity to play off the superpowers against each other. It may also deprive them of the sovereign right to govern their countries as ill as they please without jeopardizing the flow of economic assistance.

The writing on the wall is the adoption by the West of political as well as economic criteria governing the assistance they are prepared to give East European countries. This double "conditionality" will undoubtedly extend in the 1990s to the developing world.

The 1980s have been called the "lost decade for development" — and it is true that in many countries, principally in the debt-plagued economies of Africa and Latin America, already wretched living standards declined further, creating intense and widespread human suffering. It is none the less too pessimistic a conclusion.

The 1980s was the decade in which the critical lesson about development was learned: it is that people cannot help themselves, and exploit their considerable entrepreneurial energies effectively, in a climate of political repression and disrespect for the rule of law. It will be the task of the 1990s to build on that truth.

The process must not however breed fresh confrontation. Global cooperation will have to be re-forged and freed of the clichés of North-South rhetoric if three other dimensions of the global village — its over-crowding, its ecological vulnerability and the transfrontier mobility of people and goods, including drugs — are to be successfully managed.

In the 1980s, new scientific evidence transformed the preservation of the global environment from a fringe issue to a central political preoccupation. In the North, the indispensable next step must be to convince those in the South, suspicious that "green" policies will bar the route to their own development, that conservation is firmly in their interest. That will require a revolution in attitudes as profound as those which have distinguished the 1980s.

was during 1959 that the Cyprus issue was settled, and that the lines of decolonization were traced in East and West Africa. Some considerable flexibility of mind was evident in these changes of policy.

Yet on Europe, and specifically on the substitution of a new European relationship for the special relationship across the Atlantic, the mental leap proved too great. Macmillan might, with his great election victory behind him, have led Britain into membership of the European Economic Community, the new alignment that Whitehall, business and public opinion dimly perceived as the way forward. However he would have had to succeed in modifying the Foreign Office's rigid attitude to France.

A realignment of Britain towards the Common Market would have been difficult enough to accomplish with the EEC, as it then was, dominated by Adenauer in West Germany and De Gaulle in France. It was rendered impossible by Macmillan's attachment to the Americans, an attachment deepened as long as Eisenhower remained president by shared memories of wartime comradeship. It is not surprising that the experience of the Anglo-American alliance in the war against Hitler proved difficult to set aside.

During 1959 some of Whitehall's best and brightest sat on a committee devoted to thinking through policy for the approaching decade, the 1960s. The lack of radicalism in much of that forward projection now seems striking. There is, perhaps, a lesson here for any equivalent committee sitting today.

At the end of the decade of the 1950s, the record presents a considerable, perhaps great, British politician beginning (along with his officials and fellow countrymen at large) to adjust to the reality of Britain's reduced power in the second half of the 20th century. It was an adjustment which was often to prove painful and one which it would be unrealistic to expect Macmillan to have completed.

His failure, however, provides a perspective from which to appreciate the extraordinary degree to which Britain, in the Thatcher years, has made the adjustment to life within the European Community. It reveals the distance British thinking had to travel before it could do so with confidence and conviction.

Signposts to a new century

From Mr A. E. Holdsworth, QC
Sir, Each century in modern times has tended to have its distinctive flavour. The twentieth may be seen as that in which the economies of the more advanced countries have reached a stage when there is enough to go round.

Stripped of the ephemeral irrelevances that characterise political controversy, the central debates of the century can be said to have been about how this economic achievement could be not only enhanced but spread for the benefit of all. Thus it has been moral to be materialistic.

Now, however, we are perhaps aspiring to higher social objectives. The new enthusiasm for "green" issues may be an instance. Events in Eastern Europe may give a new impetus to idealism. But where are the signposts, the guidelines?

The social purpose, and the scale of values and rules of right and wrong that this enjoined, were formerly derived from religion. But, incidentally, the theological basis of religious belief has been eroded just as the need for these social directives has immensely grown. Here, then, perhaps, is the supreme challenge of the coming new century.

Why not prepare for this in the 90s with a great national debate, a sort of national "forum", seeking a consensus, acceptable to those of all religions and of none, as to our social purpose and the principles that should guide all socially significant conduct, individual and corporate?

Of course, the need is worldwide. Whatever we essayed would not be as effective as it might be unless it turned to this worldwide need. But why not make a start?

Yours etc,
A. E. HOLDSWORTH,
2 Middle Temple Lane, ECA,
December 31.

Naming the nineties

From Mrs A. M. Stewart-Wallace
Sir, In the last century we had the Naughty Nineties. What adjective should be applied to the nineties of this century?

Yours etc,
MARY STEWART-WALLACE,
The Mount House,
Ditchling,
Sussex.

Jury service

From Mr I. Honour Judge Starforth Hill, QC

Sir, I have considerable sympathy with your correspondent, the Hampshire juror (Mr Harmer, December 19). I, too, should feel frustrated if I was called for jury service and found myself never having a sight of a jury box.

Again and again defendants who have throughout protested their innocence come into the dock on the day of their trial and for the first time admit their guilt, and the waiting jury is not then required.

Also, any one of the sitting jurors on a trial may go sick — or counsel — or a witness, or a defendant (or even a judge) — and this

Saving rhinos

From Mr Adam Faith

Sir, Dr Robin Fellow's letter (December 20) about efforts to conserve the black rhino in Tanzania, casts rightly points out that for such an environmental programme to be effective it is essential that "a rhino has got to be worth more alive than dead to the local African people".

This is, in fact, the long-term aim of our project. We have a programme not just to relocate and increase the rhino stock, but to involve the Tanzanians at every level — from the Government to the wardens, rangers, vets and other workers on the ground. In

Railway issues

From Mr Francis O. J. Otway

Sir, In considering the British Rail situation, I think it is useful to look at the rail services to Zurich Airport. Through trains run to and from and also through Zurich Airport Station with a number of Swissair flights with a number of reversing at Zurich Hauptbahnhof. In fact these through trains, from which passengers only travelling to Zurich are not excluded, outnumber the purely local ones to central Zurich.

Is there any sensible reason why similar through trains should not be arranged on the new Heathrow link? It would not be difficult to run some of them into Euston and St Pancras, using the existing link from Acton (Western Region main line) to Willesden and Cuckfield.

Church and Europe

From the Reverend Dr Brian Thomas Swynnerton

Sir, The observations made and the questions asked by the Reverend Alan Booth in his letter (December 9) can be corrected and answered with complete assurance by clergy, like myself, who have had the privilege of serving in the Church of England's diocese of Europe.

I have experienced great Christian unity at every level, as well as constant support and cooperation. For example, I recall sharing with a Lutheran pastor a sacrament of holy communion as a girl of a German Lutheran church married a Church of England soldier. I had the joy of celebrating the Holy Communion in two Roman

Establishing trust at Stonehenge

From Mr Rollo Maughfling

Sir, Last summer, the Glastonbury Order of Druids distributed, at its own expense, amongst members of the travelling community an open letter calling on travellers and young people to let Stonehenge lie fallow for one year to get over the period of clashes between festival-goers and police, and to prepare the way for a more ordered and peaceable event, with proper regard being paid to such matters as crowd safety and crowd control, and the safety and care of the stones. In response to this request, between 4,000 and 5,000 travellers stayed away from Stonehenge and there were but few incidents.

At the same time a petition was presented to the Queen by the Grand Council of British Druid Orders invoking the ancient law of *Eisteddfod* for next summer as the proper means of ordering such an event and preserving the religious rights of druids and others.

Events will be occurring nationwide throughout the first half of 1990 which will determine excellence in poetry, music, film, art, dance, theatre, hearing and philosophy, natural science and ecology, and geomatic archaeology. It was to be hoped that, with the permission of English Heritage, awards for excellence in the various categories would be presented in conjunction with a specially-devised ceremony for dawn on June 21, 1990, at Stonehenge.

It is most unfortunate, that whilst detailed plans were in preparation from Home Office-accredited experts in the field of crowd safety and events management for submission to English Heritage in January, Lord Montagu, English Heritage's chairman, "jumped the gun", so to speak, by his statement of December 5 to the effect that while English Heritage "wished to encourage proper use of Stonehenge by druidic and other interested parties in the future", it would nevertheless be closed on June 21.

In the past, much of the debate surrounding Stonehenge has floundered over the fact that ex-festival-goers and incumbent druids had no coherent or concerted voice for establishing any kind of organised event which would prevent disruption. On February 5, 1989, the Grand Council of British Druid Orders was formed to take up the challenge.

will almost certainly entail a day or more delay, and in turn play havoc with a week's list of cases to be tried.

Many other problems arise which can affect the time and date which a trial is eventually called on.

It is important that any jury of 12 good people should reflect a true cross-section of society and not, for example, consist entirely of retired or unemployed people. For the system to work fairly, surely every citizen, when summoned, should come forward and offer their services as part of their public duty — frustrations and all.

Yours faithfully,
I. STARFORTH HILL,
The Law Courts,
Winchester,
Hampshire.

fact, we are merely raising the funds and equipment for what is truly a Tanzanian project.

The rhino, along with other wildlife, is a vital and unique part of their heritage. Without such wildlife the outlook for their long-term tourist industry would be bleak.

Any environmental programme must be long term and fully integrated with the people and their land. This is what our rhino rescue project is setting out to do.

Yours truly,
ADAM FAITH,
Faith Foundation,
Devonshire House,
1 Devonshire Street, W1.

These trains could reverse at these London termini and then run to Manchester and to Derby or Nottingham, Sheffield and Leeds. (Some additional electrification may be necessary if traction changes are to be avoided). A westward connection could also be made on to the Western Region main line so that trains could run to Reading and then Bristol, Cardiff and Birmingham.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS O. J. OTWAY,
Corvax, Coswold Mead,
Painswick,
Stroud, Gloucestershire.

From Mr R. G. Leale
Sir, Mr Reid has our very best wishes in his forthcoming efforts to make the trains run to time, but I think that it may be some while before he can hope to create the

Catholic churches in Spain every Sunday and I had the privilege of Cardinal Ursi and the Italian Greek Orthodox Archbishop in Italy attending my induction, conducted by our own Bishop of Europe, in the English Church in Naples.

When I preached in the great Roman Catholic Cathedral of San Gennaro, Naples, to mark the week of prayer for Christian unity in 1985, my congregation included Catholics, Anglicans, Greek Orthodox, Baptists, Methodists, Lutherans and many smaller Christian denominations.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

I consider that, thanks to Archbishop Runcie and John Satterthwaite and Edward Holland (Bishops in Europe), as well as many clergy of the Church of England serving in every part of the EC, the Church of England is in the forefront of developing relations of caring and sharing in a very real and practical way. I beg to suggest that the United European Christian Church desired by Mr Booth already exists. I ask all Christians to pray for that Church and the great work it is doing, has done and will do in the future.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN THOMAS SWYNNERTON

(Chaplain),
Acton Reynald School,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

James the first — and Charlotte

From the Social Editor of The Times

Sir, Of the 2,780 boys and 2,645 girls whose births were announced in *The Times* during 1989 — the 42nd consecutive year in which these lists have appeared in your letters column — 392 included James among their names (120 ahead of the runner-up, William) and 254 included Elizabeth (106 ahead of Charlotte).

Among the first names chosen, James was also the most popular for boys, as it has been every year since 1964; among the girls, however, Elizabeth only just edged back into the top 10. Charlotte resumed the lead position that she first acquired in 1983 but surrendered to Emma and Alice in 1987 and 1988 respectively.

Here are the 1989 tables:

All names	382	(1)	Elizabeth	254	(3)
James	272	(1)	Charlotte	148	(10)
William	233	(2)	Alice	124	(11)
Alexander	190	(3)	Emily	101	(12)
Edward	182	(4)	Victoria	91	(13)
Thomas	180	(5)	Emma	85	(14)
Charles	182	(6)	Sophie	84	(15)
John	149	(7)	Alexandra	78	(16)
David	138	(8)	Sarah	71	(17)
Robert	117	(9)	Lucy	68	(18)

First names					
James	149	(1)	Charlotte	94	(9)
Thomas	180	(2)	Emily	87	(10)
William	118	(3)	Sophie	77	(11)
Alexander	119	(4)	Emma	71	(12)
Edward	102	(5)	Alice	64	(13)
Charles	86	(6)	Olivia	55	(14)
Oliver	75	(7)	Alexandra	54	(15)
George	64	(8)	Katherine	49	(16)
Robert	55	(10)	Lucy	49	(17)
Henry	55	(11)	Elizabeth	48	(18)

Figures in parentheses show last year's position.

George and Olivia are newcomers to the first-name list; Emily, long since popular as a first name but new last year to the all-names list, has leapt to fourth place in the latter.

As usual, the great majority of children were given only one name (851) or two (2,758), with the girls predominantly in the latter category. Among those given three names, boys greatly outnumbered girls (806 to 478). Twenty-three boys but only eight girls received four names; one boy and two girls each received five names; in 498 cases, no names were announced.

Of the 85 pairs of twins, 32 were both boys, 30 were both girls and 23 were mixed; and there were six sets of triplets, three mixed and three of girls.

Yours sincerely,
HELEN BEARD, Social Editor,
The Times,
1 Pennington Street, E1,
December 31.

Cattle at sea

From Mrs Audrey Vinicombe

Sir, It was reported last week that a Panamanian-based ship, the *El Novillo*, carrying 1,200 cattle, had asked for assistance in gale-force winds off the west coast of Britain. It was on its way from Eire to the Middle East, via Gibraltar.

These animals have by now, perhaps, got beyond the Bay of Biscay in their special carrier pens — terrified and exhausted, not to mention their probable injuries — half-way on their journey to what, must, on the evidence of their number, be their slaughter on arrival.

Right under our European noses, it seems, a trade exists which no nation on this earth should allow. When is the European Community going to apply itself to the elimination of a cruel and unnecessary trade by investment in refrigeration ships for transport and in refrigeration plant and storage in developing/importing countries?

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
AUDREY VINICOMBE,
68 Beachfield Road,
Blackheath, SE3,
December 25.

Message of hope

From Mrs Diana M. Jones

Sir, This Christmas I received a home-made Christmas card from a little Armenian girl in Beirut. On the front she had drawn brightly petalled flowers and the message read: "World is wonderful".

This particular little girl comes from a very poor family and her school was recently bombed. If she can still see the world as wonderful, then surely we all have a message of hope here for the 1990s.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA M. JONES,
5 Ravensdale Avenue,
North Finchley, N12.

Time and again

From Mr Charles Harrison

Sir, Coming across an unused diary for 1979, I see that it is valid for use in 1990. This relieves me of the annual problem of deciding when to buy a pocket diary for the new year; it also means that I won't have the unhappy experience of buying myself a diary and then (usually the very next day) receiving a gift of one from some generous organisation.

Can I suggest that diary publishers insert a paragraph in their products on the lines of "This diary can be used for the following years ?"

I realise that the dates of Easter and Whit Sunday in my 1979 diary will not apply for 1990; but I can work these out for myself by using the mathematical formula we all learned at school.

Yours etc,
CHARLES HARRISON,
PO Box 14096,
Nairobi, Kenya



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 31: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning. The Bishop of Norwich preached the Sermon.

New Year's Day Birthdays

Dr Jack Birks, company chairman, 70; Lord Colwyn, 48; Sir James Crane, former HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 69; Mrs Christine Crawley, MEP, 40; Sir John Dick, QC, 70; Mr Bill Keys, trades unionist, 67; Sir Albert McQuarrie, former MP, 72; Dr James Merriman, former chairman, National Computing Centre, 75; Mr James Moorhouse, MEP, 66; Colonel P.A. Porteous, VC, 72; Sir Christopher Prout, QC, MEP, 48; Professor R.A. Raphael, chemist, 69; Sir Ashton Roskill, QC, former chairman, Monopolies and Mergers Commission, 88; Mrs Lawrence Rowe, cricketer, 41; Mr J.D. Salinger, author, 71; Lord Swansea, 65.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Edmund Burke, statesman and writer, Dublin, 1729; Maria Edgeworth, novelist, Blackborough, Oxfordshire, 1767; Arthur Hugh Clough, poet, Liverpool, 1819; Sir James Frazer, anthropologist, Glasgow, 1854; "Henry Handel Richardson" (Henrietta Richardson), novelist, Melbourne, 1870; E.M. Forster, novelist, London, 1879.

DEATHS: William Wycheley, dramatist, London, 1716; Johann Bernoulli, mathematician, Basel, 1748; Johann Christian Bach, composer, London, 1782; Jakob Wassermann, novelist, Altsaussee, Austria, 1934; Sir Edwin Lutyens, architect, London, 1944; Maurice Chevalier, Paris, 1972; John Aloysius Costello, prime minister of Ireland 1948-51, 1954-57, 1976.

The Daily Universal Register (renamed The Times on Jan 1 1788), was founded, 1785.

Royal Aeronautical Society

Elections to Fellowship of the society July-December 1989
Stanley Armstrong, Richard John Arnold, Ian David Fausel, Russell Ballalour, Roger Hubert Bessley, Edward Milton Boothby, Charles Raymond Buckley, Robert William Chevis, Philip Ivor Christie, Michael Collinson Darby, Anthony James Fairbrother, Ian David Fausel, William John Gibson, Douglas William Gillies, Elliott Aron Green, Newton Francis Harrison, Alan Edwin Heggan, James Paul Hodgson, John Chester Hutchinson, Barry Reginald Keach, Peter Michael Kerr, Colin Leslie Kirk, Richard Leht Kline, James Robinson Lightfoot, Ian David Lyon, John William Robb, Peter Sarin, Trevor Frederick Taylor, George Williamson Thomas, George Anthony Wells, Simon Miles Williamson-Noble.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr H.H. Pickering and Miss E.A. Shaddock
The engagement is announced between Hugo, only son of Sir Edward and Lady Pickering, of Norton St Philip, Bath, and Elizabeth Anne, only daughter of Brigadier and Mrs Shaddock, of Oxford, Kent.

Mr J.E. Austin and Miss L.L. Sheffield
The engagement is announced between Jonathan Robert, the eldest son of Mr and Mrs Brian Austin, of Kettering, and Laura Louise, the only daughter of Mr and Mrs David Sheffield, of Wellesley, Mass, USA.

Mr S.C. Beeching and Miss C.J. Barnes
The engagement is announced between Simon, younger son of the late Capt M. Beeching, RN, and of Mrs Beeching, of Ashford, Surrey, and Caroline, only daughter of Major and Mrs C.S. Barnes, of Digswell, Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Mr F.G. Edwards and Miss C.M. Peters
The engagement is announced between Simon, younger son of Mr and Mrs F.G. Edwards, of Milton Ernest, Bedfordshire, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs G.D. Peters, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

Mr C.A. Helwell and Miss C.E. Lelux
The engagement is announced between Christopher Alexander, elder son of Mr and Mrs R.C.J. Helwell, of Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, and Charlotte Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs S.A. Lelux, of Ilkerton, Derbyshire.

Mr S.M. Kennedy and Miss E.C. Whitaker
The engagement is announced between Stewart Malcolm, only son of Mr Ewen Kennedy, of Wootton Bassett, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Beryl Kennedy, of Broadwell, Gloucestershire, and Emily Claire, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Whitaker, of Kensington, London.

Newman, Doctor of the Church

The year 1990 will be the year of John Henry Newman. He was born on February 21 1801 and died on August 10 1890. His life and writings, both huge by any standard, have transfixed the admiration and devotion of a century of disciples, not to say disputation hunters.

English Catholicism, guarded at first, became spiritually enchanted with "Dr Newman" at least since May 1879, when Leo XIII, seeking symbols of liberal learning after the intellectual myopia of Pío Nono, chose to make him his first Cardinal as a deliberate indication of things to come. (Anglican Oxford had been more quickly perceptive, Trinity conferring Oxford's first Honorary Fellowship in 1877.)

Newman was of course not so much "liberal" (and he had much to say of that in his last writings) as centre of the road. He had cunningly taken a *via media* in plotting out his life. Or was it God-given? — for he had spent 45 years on the Anglican side and, *mirabile dictu*, 45 years on the Catholic.

Neither discipline liberal nor ultra-montane papal, he so-to-say nailed his colours to the Alps — and to conscience first. That suited Leo XIII as he championed the exodus from the Catholic ghetto into a sunny enlightenment.

● Newman was of course not so much "liberal" as centre of the road ●

that proved a precursor to Modernism (Pío Nono turning in his grave, with help from Pius X).

Leo XIII hardly lived up to the symbolism he set forth in Newman's elevation. He and his two successors were resolute champions of Thomistic neo-scholasticism rather than the new German learning — Aquinas having been made the *Doctor Angelicus* by a Dominican pontiff, the fiercely centralizing and standardizing Pius V in 1568.

Pope Leo lost the love of the English that he had solicited with his 1895 Apostolic Letter *Ad Anglos*, when the following year he sent another such Letter, *Apostolicae Curiae*, condemning "ordinations performed according to the Anglican rite (as) absolutely null and utterly void" — his pronouncement, to drain it of the last vestige of charm or

forebearance, being "now and forever in the future valid and in force" (and a bit more). To assuage the bitterness that accrued from counter-accusations and counter-charges during 1897-8, Leo declared an uncanonized *venerabile*, Bode the monk of Wearmouth-Jarrow (673-735), to be England's first Doctor of the Church, in 1899.

That may not be quite correct, depending how one accounts circumstances. There was another such uncanonized monk, prelate of Canterbury, who died in 1109 (before canonization rituals became common routine with the martyrdom of Thomas Becket), and whom Clement XI declared a Doctor of the Church in 1720, that Pope being a generous protector and prospector of both the arts and scholarship, as well as propagator of the Vatican Library. Born in Aversa, which he left without ever revisiting, professed to the Norman abbey of Bec-Hellouin, in which he was for two consecutive periods of 15 years prior and then abbot; Anselm became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1093. Do we count him the first English Doctor of the Church, or give the credit to the continent?

Newman celebrations are planned to span the year from February 21 1990, when a Mass and dinner in Birmingham mark the moment, until February 21 1991, when the Rev Professor Owen Chadwick, OM, preaches the centenary lecture, he being a tried Newmanite.

Highlight of the celebrations will be a series of prestigious lectures given under the auspices of the old Tractarian College, Oriel, next Hilary Term (in the Examination Schools). Lord St John of Fawley, an eminent lay Catholic and Bagshaw's 15-volume editor, is to speak on "Newman the Man"; Dr David Newsome, of Wellington College, on "Newman & Oxford"; the Rev Professor Henry Chadwick (a brother) on "Newman... for the Anglican Church"; the Archbishop of Hobart on "Newman... for the Roman Catholic Church"; Dr Anthony Kenny, of Balliol, on Newman as philosopher of religion; A.N. Wilson on Newman the writer; and Oxford's Chancellor, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, on Newman the educationist. Then to cap it all, when Newman's erstwhile pupil of St Mary the Virgin, Dr Ruinice will preach one March evening.

It is thought that within these dates Fr Newman might be beatified (as the 85

English and Welsh martyrs) with a view to eventual canonization (as with the 40 English and Welsh martyrs). It is thought possible that, Victorian falling in his lifetime and Vatican II in his spiritual patronage, the Cardinal might at the same time — in view of his ample writings, his championship of dogmatic truth, his controversies in defence of the faith and Christian doctrine — be made a Doctor of the Church, the second... or third English *Doctor Ecclesiae*.

For that he would require to be attested outstanding in holiness — and canonization would underwrite that. He would need to be recognized as distinguished for eminent learning — and the degree of post-war affirmation, quotation, re-publication and dissemination surely attests that. He would have to be proclaimed by the Pope of the day — and John Paul II has long and loudly recognized Newman's qualities, some of his Curial Cardinals (notably Wilibrand of SPCU) having done in their day Newman doctorates. A Doctor, it is felt, should communicate the gifts of the Spirit: received, absorbed and gifted. (Yet in Christendom there are others unsung who do the same.)

In Newman's lifetime eight churches were declared *Doctor Ecclesiae* (as

● It would seem good if John Paul II rethought his list and added one to it ●

many as sufficed) throughout the first Christian millennium: Peter Damian (1228), Bernard of Clairvaux (1830), Hilary of Poitiers (1851), Alphonsus Liguori (1871), Francois de Sales (1877) and three Easterners, Cyrillus of Alexandria and of Jerusalem (1882) and John of Damascus (1890).

By then some 23 had been declared; but no women, that is until Catherine of Siena and Teresa of Avila in 1970. Just after the Vatican Council it was believed that no woman could be named "because of the link between this title and the teaching office, which is limited to males". Then Paul VI rethought the principle. It would seem good if John Paul II rethought his list of *Doctores Ecclesiae*, and added one to it.

Father Stapcoole, OSB, is a monk of Ampleforth Abbey.

OBITUARIES

VICE-ADMIRAL SIR GEOFFREY ROBSON

From destroyers to Combined Operations

Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Robson, KBE, CB, DSO, DSC, who died on Christmas Day, aged 87, was one of the outstanding destroyer captains of the Second World War. From 1939-1941 he was in command of HMS Kandahar in the Mediterranean where Kandahar took part in the evacuation of Greece, for which Robson was awarded a DSC, and the evacuation of Crete, for which he was given a bar to his DSO. Kandahar was sunk at the end of 1941 trying to tow the cruiser Neptune out of an Italian minefield.

In 1942 he joined Mountbatten's Combined Operations organisation and was in charge of training some 60,000 personnel to form boat crews and beach parties. He was naval Chief of Staff for the assaults on Pantellaria, an island between North Africa and Sicily, in 1942 and Salerno in 1943. He was mentioned in despatches.

In 1944 he became Captain D in HMS Hardy — in charge of the ships of the 26th Destroyer Flotilla. His ship was sunk by a homing torpedo on the way to northern Russia, while proceeding at the then presumed safe speed of 20 knots — too fast, it was thought, for a homing torpedo to catch up. Recent improvements to German homing torpedoes, however, meant that the safe speed for ships attacking U-boats was 25 knots, not 20 knots as before. This information had not been promulgated by the time the convoy sailed and Hardy was caught. He continued as Escort Force Commander to the north of Russia and for the

return passage. From 1944-45 he was Captain Coastal Forces Nine. From 1945-46 he was in command of HMS Superb. He was again under fire when engaged by Albanians in the Corfu channel. From 1948-50 he was Captain of HMS Ganges, the establishment for training boy entrants.

From 1951-53 he was Flag Officer Flotillas Home, the equivalent of the old position of Rear-Admiral Destroyers. His command comprised three destroyer flotillas and one fast frigate flotilla. The threat at that time came from the heavy Russian and Sverdlov-type cruiser. The Russian submarine menace had not yet emerged. Much time was spent in developing tactics for attacking such a target as the Sverdlov with light forces.

He was Flag Officer Scotland from 1953-55, an appointment he was proud to hold since he was a Scotsman. From 1956-58 he was Commander-in-Chief, South Atlantic and Chief, South Atlantic and Chief, South Atlantic and Chief, South Atlantic.

He never held an appointment at the Admiralty. From 1958-64 he was Lt-Governor of Guernsey.

In 1925 he married Sylvia Forrester, who died in 1968, and in 1969 he married Elizabeth Holt, who survives him, together with one son of his first marriage.

ELSIE GRIFFIN

Making 'Danny Boy' a song to remember

Elsie Griffin, one of London's leading colouratura sopranos in the 1920s and 1930s, and for many years a popular performer with the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, died on December 21, aged 94.

The songwriter Fred Weatherly, impressed by the beauty of her voice, brought her his new compositions, and her singing of two of them made them among the most popular hits of the century: "Danny Boy" and "Roses of Picardy".

She made her first appearance with the D'Oyly Carte Company in London at the Prince's Theatre in October 1919, singing the roles of Ginevra in *The Gondoliers*, Lady Ella in *Patience*, Kate in *The Yeoman of the Guard*, Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Yum-Yum in *The Mikado*, Phyllis in *Jolanthe*, Aline in *The Sorcerer* and Josephine in *HMS Pinafore*.

To these, she added *Rose Maybud* in *Ruddigore*, and remained a firm D'Oyly Carte favourite for many years.

Her leading man was that greatest of Savoyards, Sir

Henry Lytton. Her conductor was Sir Malcolm Sargent, and her director was James Gordon, who had worked with Gilbert and Sullivan personally on the original productions.

In 1926, she appeared as Yum-Yum in a colour film *The Mikado*, with Lytton as Ko-Ko, and in the same year repeated the role in the first BBC radio broadcast of a Gilbert and Sullivan opera. In 1929, her recording for HMV of *Poor Wandering One* was voted the best British gramophone solo of the year. At the Playhouse in 1929, she worked with Malcolm Sargent again, playing Bettsinda in a musical version of Thackeray's novel, *The Rose and the Ring*. She was also seen on the concert platform, in oratorio, on the variety stage, and on tour, in Britain as Mary in *Wild Violets*, and in South Africa as Lili in *Lilac Time*.

Between 1934 and 1937, she appeared with the Carl Rosa Opera Company, singing the leading soprano roles in *Die Fledermaus*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Carmen*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tales of Hoffman*, *Faust*, *Pagliacci* and *The Elvira of Love*.

Born in Bristol on December 6, 1895, she made her debut on the stage during the First World War with Lena Ashwell's company, formed at the request of King George V to entertain British troops in France. Her last stage appearance was in Peter Howard's *Moral Re-Armament* musical *The Vanishing Island* in which, from 1955 until 1957, she toured Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the United States.

An operation on her facial glands in 1962 prevented further appearances, but, when her D'Oyly Carte recordings of *The Pirates of Penzance* were re-issued in 1981, the *New York Times* critic wrote that her "secure coloratura and bell-like purity of tone" made her the definitive Mabel.

She married Ivan Menzies, another notable D'Oyly Carte singer, who died in 1985. She is survived by their daughter.

ANDOR KRASZNA-KRAUSZ

Prophet of the camera arts

Andor Kraszna-Krausz, who died on December 24, aged 85, was a leading publisher in the pictorial arts and a man ahead of his time. He foresaw the profound technological changes in photography, cinematography and television that were to take place during his lifetime.

Born in Hungary on January 12, 1904, he came to this country from Germany in 1937 where he had lived since 1922. At 34, he was an experienced writer and editor in the literature of photography. Turned down by British publishers whom he approached with the idea of establishing a list of books about photography, he started his own publishing house under the name of Focal Press, which became an imprint of world renown in the field. His first title (*The All-in-One Camera Book*), published in 1938, went into 81 editions and sold a million copies.

"K-K" was a personal publisher, close to his authors and their manuscripts. As a law student in the University of Budapest in 1922, he told the

editor of a literary magazine that he wanted to be a publisher. "Why?" "Because," he replied, "I like to write." "That's the worst possible reason for being a publisher," replied his mentor. "As a publisher, you will have to see in everything you publish much that is your own, but for which you will get no credit." He avoided this frustration by becoming a writer as well as a publisher, an achievement recognized when he was awarded the Kulturpreis for 1979 by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Photographie. He had prophesied, the citation said, "decades before Marshall McLuhan" that the language of pictures would revolutionize the culture of Gutenberg.

He was not widely known in British publishing circles, but was well remembered in Germany. In the 1970s a German television series on "The Forgotten Alternatives" sent a team to K-K's old thatched house in Bourne End, Buckinghamshire. The programme was speculating on what might have happened in

Germany if talented people had not been driven away by the Nazis. The producer gave him an article written in 1929. What did he think of it? He read it carefully and said it was an accurate prophecy of the development of the pictorial arts for the succeeding 50 years. "By the way," he asked, "who wrote it?" "You did," the producer replied, and asked him to read extracts.

In his 60-year career, K-K wrote hundreds of articles, and published 1,200 books on photography, cinematography and television. They were translated into 20 languages and sold, in all, 50 million copies.

In 1984 he established the Kraszna-Krausz Foundation which makes annual awards honouring distinguished authorship of literature concerned with photography and other imaging processes. In the last year of his life, he was honoured with a Doctorate of Literature from the University of Bradford, where the National Museum of Photography will inherit his extensive library.

SIR WALTER BROMLEY-DAVENPORT

Mr David Howell, MP, writes: Walter Bromley-Davenport's real genius was deliberately to overlap all the parts of life offered him — to him things up a bit, as he put it — to the delight, and sometimes outrage, of his close friends but to the bewilderment of less close acquaintances.

Love of acting ran, and still runs, strongly in his family and Walter never really let up, whether on the stage or off it. He thoroughly enjoyed the larger-than-life image which thus emerged of the "typical" knight of the shire and the stately home-owner reluctantly meeting his public on open days and he played these

roles with zest, especially for the media.

But within there was the shrewd man who nearly always had the last laugh on all his audiences.

The best thing Walter did was to marry the fabulous Leslee Jeanes from Philadelphia. She it was who gathered at Capeshorne a great circle of friends round Walter from both politics and the arts and who brought everything at Capeshorne to joyous and humming life, especially the little Victorian theatre built into one of the wings.

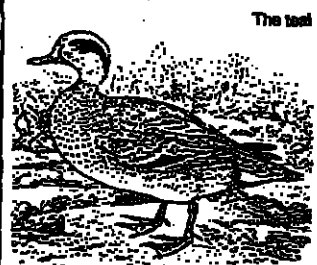
Together, Walter and Leslee had the knack of bringing out the very best and

most creative talents in their friends. They persuaded leading theatrical figures, like the late Peter Dabney, to produce near-professional results at Capeshorne out of unpromisingly amateur material (including on one occasion a Gilbertian chorus line entirely composed of Walter's MP colleagues).

Walter and Leslee Bromley-Davenport had their share of sadnesses in their lives. But they, their family and the legendary Capeshorne theatricals were always synonymous with laughter, happiness and high entertainment.

These are memories which do not fade.

Nature notes



Ten are whistling among the reeds: they have a graver, rather bell-like note that can be heard a long way away. Collared doves are singing on telephone poles and church steeples: they produce a triple note, with increasing delivery, like a cuckoo call with an emphatic extra "coo" in front of it.

Pied wagtails divide their time between roof tops and the ground, where they feed as much on roads and garage forecourts as in cow pastures. They rarely settle in a bush or tree, except at night, when they roost in flocks in laurel shrubberies and patches of gorse. Long-tailed tits are common in Britain again, helped by mild winters: they are very small greyish birds but conspicuous because of their long tails and large black eyebrows.

Moor hens are still feeding in family parties, swimming together or venturing on to grassy river banks: the first-winter birds can be distinguished by their greenish-brown beaks, while their parents' beaks are red at the base and yellow at the tip. Some black-headed gulls have already acquired the dark cap of their spring plumage.

There is plenty of ground vegetation, including buttercup leaves and new goose-grass. Pink Japanese cherry is in flower.

DJM

Conductor for just one day



A New Year's dream came true last night for Heather Walker when she stepped on to the podium at the Barbican Hall to conduct the London Symphony Orchestra in a performance of the Radecky March by Johann Strauss. Miss Walker, who is a graduate of the Royal College of Music where she studied the piano, won her chance to conduct the orchestra in a competition organized by Selfridges and American Express. The orchestra, under John Georgiadis, will give two further concerts of Viennese music tonight and tomorrow.

Chess

Kasparov angry at his new top rank rating

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Gary Kasparov, the Soviet world chess champion, aged 26, tops the World Chess Federation ranking list made public today. His new rating is 2800 on the Elo scale, a mathematical system designed to gauge chess strength elaborated by Dr Arpad Elo, an American mathematician professor.

Although Kasparov is the first to reach 2800 and although he has smashed the record 2,785 in 1972 of the legendary Bobby Fischer, controversy surrounds his new rating.

After smashing tournament victories in The Netherlands and Yugoslavia in October and November, experts had calculated that he would reach 2810 Elo points and become the first to progress beyond 2800. Kasparov is furious that the world chess federation (FIDE), with which he has been at loggerheads for years has apparently "eliminated" ten of his precious points.

There is speculation among officials that the federation passed, almost without notice, a little-known clause at their summer meeting in Puerto Rico which could penalize players who share first prize in tournaments but fail to win them outright.

In August Kasparov tied with his old enemy, Anatoly Karpov, in the World Cup tournament in Sweden. Under

previous regulations the tie would have protected Kasparov from any loss of rating points. It is certain to protest about the calculation of his new rating.

The top ten players in the list are: Kasparov 2800; Karpov (USSR) 2730; Jan Timman (The Netherlands) 2680; Vassily Ivanchuk (USSR) 2645; Mikhail Gurevich (USSR) 2645; Alexander Beliavsky (USSR) 2640; Nigel Short (England) 2635; Viktor Korchnoi (Switzerland) and Ljubomir Ljubovitch (Yugoslavia) both 2625.

Two further British players are rated at 2600 or over, placing them in the absolute super-class of Grandmasters: Jon Speelman (2610) and Dr John Nunn (2600).

● In the Foreign and Colonial grandmaster tournament in Hastings (Jon Speelman recovered in round three from his slow start by winning a brilliant game in 35 moves against Murray Chandler. Speelman sacrificed a rook for a knight to gain a dominating centre position and used it in a devastating attack which shredded the defences around Chandler's king.

Scores after the third round: Nikolic 2½pts; Adams, Dolmatov 2; Speelman, Spraggett 1; Chandler ½.

هنا من الاصل

THE ARTS

Cautious flutter on an obvious favourite

TELEVISION
Rhoda Koenig

In outline, Elizabeth Bowen's *The Heat of the Day* (ITV) sounded like a classic bosom-flutterer: Stella Rodney (Patricia Hodge), a widow in wartime London, has a lover, Robert (Michael York), with, as the press release put it, "a secret and rather mysterious job with the War Office". An even more mysterious man, Harrison (Michael Gambon), tells her that Robert is a traitor, but he will not reveal this if Stella will let him "drop in from time to time" (i.e. have sex with her). Stella loves Robert, but fears his treachery may harm her son, Rodney, who is in the Army.

Dear, oh dear! What to do? Since this was an adaptation by Harold Pinter, the answer was: not a great deal.

The problem was set out near the beginning, then pondered and sighed over for the rest of the two-hour play. The first part of it contained not only the most plot, but the most atmosphere and all the best lines. "These are two of my house guests" an old lady says. "I brought them out for a nice little treat." Unexceptional in itself, but not when the "guests" are inmates of a nursing home, and the "treat" a local funeral. Gambon's proposition: "If you and I could arrange things between us, things might be... arranged," nicely struck a balance between teasing and the genuinely sinister.

However, director Christopher Morahan's slow pace worked against the needs of both thriller and romance, and the dialogue got stickier and stickier, climaxing in a classic line to stir the heart beneath the pinstriped. Preparing to escape across her roof, Robert mentions his tricky knee to Stella and says, ruefully: "We've never danced, have we?"

Casting also militated against our involvement in this drama of sighs and shadows. Instead of two thrillingly glamorous or touchingly ordinary leads, we got a pair of actors who would not be one's first choice for evoking tenderness and sensuality: the bulky Gambon, who seemed always to be brooding over pension rights and constipation remedies, and the imperious Hodge, whose clothes seemed welded-on and who had a tendency, in conversation, to lead with her considerable chin.

Imelda Staunton, on the other hand, skillfully played an annoying woman in a way that amused rather than irritated; and as for Michael York, well, talk about mysterious: touching 50, this actor looks as if he could be playing Hodge's son. I'd give a lot to know his beauty secret.

TOMORROW

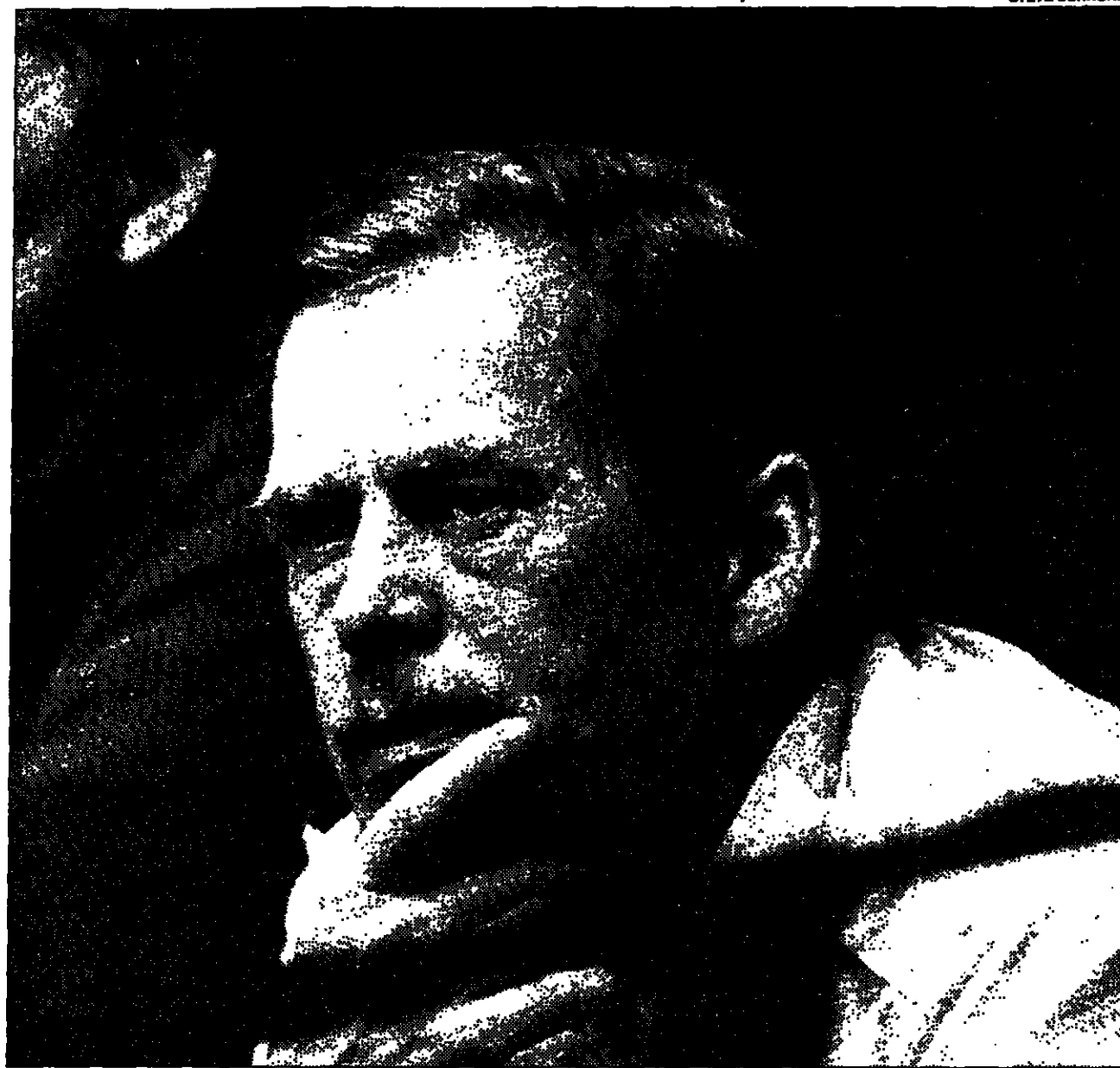
Leading the charge: Dr Alan Borg, the director-general of the Imperial War Museum, on the case for paid admission to all public museums

Plus Cambridge Circus to Broadcasting House: Sheridan Morley on David Hatch, the director of BBC Radio programmes

Benedict Nightingale, the new chief theatre critic of *The Times*, looks at the uncertain prospects for British theatre in the 1990s

The play's the thing, but what is it worth?

STEVE CONNORS



Playwright president: Vaclav Havel, Czech writer of "good plays, which combined wry cynicism with scorching integrity"; they won him international fame and authority at home; he is, Benedict Nightingale says, "an inspiration to democrats everywhere"

One thing we can already say for the impending 1990s. The decade is opening with a triumphant affirmation of the importance of drama. Starting in the Sixties, continuing through the dour Seventies and Eighties, a writer called Vaclav Havel wrote plays, good plays, which combined wry cynicism with scorching integrity. Soon they were being distributed in samizdat and performed abroad, winning him international fame and giving him authority at home; and now here he is, president of his country and an inspiration to democrats everywhere.

True, we are talking of that faraway country of which we supposedly know so little. True, circumstances create heroes, and things are not yet so calamitous here that we need call on Harold Pinter, Edward Bond or some other earnest reformer to head a government of national recovery. Nevertheless, let us not forget that they and their colleagues are playing a trade which can charge hearts, mould minds, worry the entrenched, upset the tyrannical, and nudge history. Havel is the proof and example, even for us British.

But that raises hard questions. Which of our playwrights is capable of serious charging, moulding, worrying, upsetting and nudging in the 1990s? How many still startle you with the originality of their view of matters public, private or both? Where are fresh dramatists with a distinctive vision and voice? For that matter, where are the new playwrights, period?

It may be me; but when I press my mental fast-forward button, I seem to scan the past. Up come Pinter and Bond, though the former now writes seldom and thinly for the theatre, and the latter seems terminally trapped in a rancorous Leninism. The next names onto the screen are Stoppard and Hare, Brecht and Ayckbourn, Hampton and Frayn, Gray and Poliakoff. The good news for the 1990s is that they are far from spent, most of them. The trouble is that most critics would have produced the same list in 1979 — and not a vastly dissimilar one in 1989.

True, there has been one key development in the past few years: the emergence of more and more women dramatists of interest. Charlotte Keatley and Catherine Johnson are only the latest to venture where Caryl Churchill has imaginatively pioneered. But where are the aspiring dramatists of either sex who instantly identify themselves by the timbre of their dialogue or the idiosyncrasy of their stance, as Pinter and Bond once did? Doug Lucie perhaps, that sour observer of the go-getting Eighties; no one much else.

One cannot inspect the tea leaves or chicken entrails without wondering whether our dramatists will come up with challenges worthy of the remarkable performers we are still producing. Here at least augury cannot be gloomy. Now that Maggie Smith has been ennobled, think of Derek Jacobi, Alec McCowen, Ian McKellen, Anthony Hopkins, Glenda Jackson, Janet Suzman, John Wood, Michael Bryant — and, no, you still haven't a complete list of those who could earn their knighthoods or damehoods in the 1990s.

They merit better than the kind of whining social plays, or glum studies of the male menopause, to which we have become accustomed in the 1980s. So

indeed do those treading on their heels: among them, Jonathan Pryce, Antony Sher, Simon Callow, Fiona Shaw, Sinead Cusack, Juliet Stevenson, Hugh Quarshie — and, of course, Kenneth Branagh, even if he has fallen victim to the envy the English reserve for initiative and resource.

Actually, Branagh's Renaissance Theatre deserves more than passing mention, because its significance is perhaps yet to be fully acknowledged. As Michael Pennington has also shown with his and Michael Bogdanov's English Shakespeare

Company, and Ian McDiarmid and Jonathan Kent may soon re-emphasize at the Almeida, the actors themselves are demanding and sometimes obtaining more control over their work — and especially their classic work. How refreshing it would be if the 1990s turned out to be a time for releasing our performers' creative energies rather than encasing them in the interests of some director's "concept" or tilted interpretation. What many of us surely crave are more productions such as Trevor Nunn's self-effacing *Othello* — with McKellen freed to

give the performance of his life as Iago — and less like that other RSC production I saw a while back: a *Lear* emotionally vandalized by the notion of making the King, Cordelia, everyone, subsidiary to a character who died in Act III, the Fool.

I recall this particular excrescence because its creator, Adrian Noble, may well inherit the tiller of the storm-tossed RSC, and his agenda apparently includes ditching untried work for the proven and period. His recent production of *The Plantagenets*, among others, suggests that he has become more imaginatively

responsible of late, but he should still remember that the RSC's acting has been uniquely complete because its contemporary work has lent punch to its classical, just as its classical work has added rigour to its contemporary. Whether Noble, Caird, Hytner or David Thacker is the company's new helmsman, the demand for the 1990s is the same. Neither to let it ossify into a Shakespearean counterpart of the Comédie Française, nor to play cerebral games with the classics, but somehow, against all logistic and economic odds, to rebuild the versatile ensemble the RSC can and should be.

The National's future looks more stable, provided Richard Eyre does not let his radical instincts narrow what has rightly been a catholic repertoire. Yet even this prophecy must be tentative.

So must every hope I have expressed, for obvious reasons. Which party will win the next election, and what will be the theatrical implications of its victory? It is premature to suppose that the 13 per cent rise the present government has just given the Arts Council implies lasting commitment to its cause. Equally, it would be wrong to assume that an economically embattled Labour administration would make the arts an overriding priority.

So here is one sadly irrefutable forecast. The 1990s will see lots more enervating debate about grants and subsidies: subjects on which, as it happens, I can speak with authority, since I have spent most of the past six years in America and have seen what complacent managements, myopic unions and government parsimony have jointly done to a once-great theatre.

The odd hit barely disguises the fact that Broadway is gaudily in its death-throes. Off-Broadway's lungs are not strong either, dependent as they substantially are on private money. If you want to know what excessive reliance on sponsorship means, hitch a 747 to New York.

It means theatres must avoid risk or controversy, and go for safe, preferably conspicuous success. It means administrators cannot confidently hire actors, build a company, plan ahead. If trouble hits, it means cutting production, closing your studio or even your main theatre for indefinite periods, putting up your seat prices to levels the ordinary public cannot afford, or some or all of those things. And if you think it could not happen here, inquire at the Royal Court.

True, the West End is still healthier than Broadway, half of whose theatres are regularly dark. One might even feel modest optimism about its prospects in the 1990s, given the savvy of impresarios such as Michael Codron and Cameron Mackintosh. But they would be the first to emphasize their own reliance on the subsidized sector. It is not just that *Les Misérables* started at the RSC or *Our Country's Good* at the Court. It is that their major actors, writers, directors were almost all nurtured in places protected from the need to produce profit.

Indeed, not a person mentioned in this article — Stoppard to Suzman, Caird to Jacobi — would be what they are if state-aided theatres had not supported their development. If we do not finally solve the problem of theatre finance in the 1990s, it is hard to imagine us entering the new century with talent remotely of their calibre. That is the challenge of the new decade on which all others depend.

Making it seem like child's play

OPERA

Paul Griffiths

Hansel and Gretel Coliseum

A lot has been said and lot more will surely, surely follow, about the new Nineties and *fin de siècle* revisited. But if one wants a demonstration of just how very distant we are from the end of the last century, here it is in the English National Opera production of Humperdinck's fairy-tale opera, a work just three years short of its centenary but millennia



Cathryn Pope (left), Ethna Robinson: repeat success as the children

away in its huge, untroubled charm.

Nothing could worry and frustrate the modern opera producer more than this work without problems. Humperdinck's achievement is naivety on a heroic, almost a Brucknerian scale, naivety that can weave constantly through Wagnerian situations and Wagnerian musical atmospheres without losing any of its innocence (and how curious that the composer of *Tristan* should have fathered so many simple souls). This is a work wholly free from doubts and subtleties, a work which therefore now seems far more problematic than the most problem-ridden Mahler symphony, when we so much distrust artistic states of grace, especially those emanating from the neighbourhood of Bayreuth.

Perhaps the ideal production of *Hansel and Gretel* would be one that matched the work's simplicity, one with flaxen wigs, a forest and stacks of gingerbread. But it would need to be designed, produced, performed and probably also attended by saints if it were not to seem a grotesque parody. The solution adopted by David Pountney and his designer Stefanos Lazaridis is more practical and brilliantly successful, at least for those who belong to their generation, since the work is simply made part of a 1950s childhood, along with giant cream refrigerators, feathered hats, suburban semis and uniformed cinema ushers. This is flagrant nostalgia, of course, but the self-indulgence is neatly spiked by self-mockery, by the ironic quotation marks around the pop-up kitchen set and the team of picture-book characters who appear as angels for the dancing and, yes, beautiful tableau at the end of the second act.

The effect is to restore us all to childhood, without forgetting the real children who will inevitably and rightly be part of the audience: they will be delighted by the magic of the scene changes, by the knickers, and of course by the music (though on Saturday afternoon there was one clear small voice upstairs wanting to escape from Pauline Tinsley's wilder cackles and shrieks as the witch).

Tinsley, in strident voice and nicely contrasting a believable desperation as the Mother with a histrionic malevolence (for the rest of us) as the Witch, shares these parts with Maria Moll, and the other principal roles are also doubly cast. We heard Ethna Robinson and Cathryn Pope repeating their success as the children, the former effectively aping boyish mannerisms, the latter looking so uncannily like an 11-year-old girl that her strong, rounded voice kept on being a surprise.

Norman Bailey was reliable in the nonentity part of the Father, and there were jewel moments from Maureen Brathwaite as the Sandman and Janis Kelly as the Dew Fairy. That these two can be presented as tramps, sleeping under newspaper on a park bench, is some proof of the viability of the production's unforced transport of a Grimm tale into English suburbia.

But the triumph is also that of the orchestra, conducted here by Mark Elder, who draws out the sumptuousness and also the simplicity of the score in seamless, glowing sound. With so many reminiscences of Wagner passing through the air, one is reminded of how little real Wagner has recently been presented in this theatre by its principal conductor and producer. The glory and the tact of their Humperdinck whet the appetite rather seriously.

Farewell louder than hello

DANCE

John Percival

SWRB Triple bill Sadler's Wells

The Sadler's Wells audience said goodbye on Friday to a favourite ballerina: Margaret Barbieri, retiring after 25 years with that branch of the Royal Ballet. If she had danced one of the romantic works for which she is most famous, there would scarcely have been a dry eye in the house, but her choice was to exit smiling as the silly, exuberant Debutante in Ashton's witty *Facade*. The lady has style; we shall miss her.

Before this departure, there came three arrivals in the form of premieres. Balanchine's *Divertimento No 15* should prove a more enduring edition to the repertoire than the two apprentice works by dancers in the company. Since I welcomed its Birmingham premiere last May, several of the dancers have grown more dashing in their solos, notably Chesca Williams and Roland Price.

Those who were good before remain so (the brilliant young Miyako Yoshida and Sandra Madsen, conspicuous among them), and Saturday's matinee I was taken by the promise of a newcomer, Simone Clarke: not entirely secure yet, but with attractive exuberance and force. Balanchine's choreography conceals amazing invention under its appearance of easy inevitability to the Mozart score.

But why — as with *Rabier* at Covent Garden — has the Royal Ballet wasted money on a décor for a ballet which, as New York City Ballet shows, actually looks better without one?

The two would-be choreographers tried out on this programme could both benefit from observing how Ashton and Balanchine gave content to music and movement. Vincent Redmon's *Amor* is fluent but slight and busy; William Tuckett's *Three Unheard* is full of earnest ideas but mostly expressed in second-hand movement.

Peter Wright's policy for the company of trying to develop new creators is commendable, but I am not convinced that these particular examples deserved more exposure than a choreographic workshop. Both of the new works look back to



Departing: Margaret Barbieri in Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet's *Facade*

earlier (and better) models; what the company desperately needs is a new voice using movement in its own way. I have no complaints to make, however, about the bright presentation of Redmon's cast, and only praise for Annette Pain's commitment as Tuckett's central character. The audience welcomed them generously.

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MONDAY PAGE

Ceaurescu's children

Legalizing abortion might not appear to be a priority for a post-revolutionary government. But, as Liz Gill reports, it was crucial for the women of Romania

An underground poem that circulated through Bucharest before the Romanian revolution summed up the anguish of a people caught between the birth squads and the death squads. "For a fetus to be aborted is a terrible fate," it said. "But to be born is even worse."

To outsiders the legalization of abortion might seem a curious priority: the new government announced it on its first day in office, along with the scrapping of the village systematization plan and an end to rationing. To Romanians, subject for years to what one dissident called "state control of a woman's womb", it represented a cornerstone of liberation.

Iolanda Stranescu, President of the British Romanian Association, said: "This is an act of humanity. The birth policy was one of the most hated decrees. The humiliation and suffering it caused are almost impossible to describe."

Though the new regime has not yet spelled out the details, observers understand that the move on abortion will be coupled with the lifting of a ban on contraception, thus dismantling the machinery with which Ceausescu and his wife Elena, who was in charge of "women's policies", pursued their crazed dream of population growth.

Relief organizations, such as the World Union of Free Romanians, are already adding contraceptives to their supplies of medical needs. Anca Panter, a member of the emergency committee, says: "It's not the sort of thing you would think of first when people are cold and hungry and many are dying from their wounds. But it is vital for the future."

"Of course we are delighted by the legalization of abortion: we all know women who lost their lives in illegal abortions. But you want abortion to be a last resort for all kinds of reasons. When you're trying to restore the health of the nation you do not want hospital beds taken up with abortions."

"The problem is that Romania simply does not have any contraceptives. They do not make them and they do not have the money to buy them. We should be grateful for any we can get."

The leading charity in the field is the

International Planned Parenthood Federation, which represents family planning organizations in 132 countries. "There was a family planning organization there once but obviously it has been dormant for many years," says Jeremy Hamand, IPPF's publications editor. "The question now is how quickly they can restore normality. The main thing will be supplies. We would probably send pills and condoms at first because they are comparatively simple to distribute."

One of the world's biggest buyers of contraceptives, IPPF donates supplies or cash to local organizations, which then decide whether to charge any fee. The charity has also helped in Poland, and is in the process of setting up family planning groups in the Soviet Union in an attempt to cut the abortion rate - women there have as many as six each.

Hamand is not surprised by the swiftness with which the Ceausescu birth policy was revoked. "It was a violation of one of the most basic human rights. We carried out a survey of eight eastern European countries and Romania's situation was by far the most dreadful."

The obsessive pursuit of population growth - the Ceausescus believed that the "magic number" of 20 million Romanians by the year 2000 would somehow give the country more global influence - began in 1966, with the ban on abortions, and was implemented with increasing ferocity. Women were required to bear four, then five, children. "We were encouraged" by the slender carrot of financial reward and the hefty sticks of taxation on childlessness and draconian punishments for illegal abortion.

Ceausescu spelled it out a decade ago when he declared that the fetus was "the socialist property of the entire society. Those who deliberately refuse are deserters trying to escape the laws of national continuity."

Anyone unmarried by the age of 25 faced an additional tax burden of as much as 10 per cent. Couples failing to produce a baby after two years without medical explanation faced

similar economic burdens. At the same time women were encouraged to produce children regardless of whether they had a husband; even unmarried teenage girls came under pressure. Paternity was said to be "a hangover of a corrupt society. The truly noble thing is to stimulate the birth rate."

Legal abortions were permitted in cases of incest, where the mother's life was threatened, where there was damage to the fetus, if she had already had the required number of children, or if she was aged over 40. But doctors were not only punished for illegal terminations; they could also be prosecuted if it was thought they had been over-zealous in performing legal ones.

As a result, an increasing number of women sought out back street abortionists and deaths from complications soared. In 1980, for instance, it was estimated that the rate was 100 per million women, one of the highest in the world. Consultants who, on admitting a woman to hospital, suspected that an abortion had been induced, were supposed to call in a member of the security forces to question the patient before treatment was

allowed. Dr Adriana Marian recalls this happening during her training. "Some doctors would close their eyes but it was very dangerous," she says. "You knew informers were about. Because day-to-day life was so difficult people did not want to have more children, and they managed to find all kinds of ways round it."

Some, she says, tried homemade contraceptives. Her own mother-in-law, a pharmacist, could concoct a reasonably effective spermicide. Most Romanians, though, were driven to abortifacients.

"There was a lot of septicaemia. I've seen very young women die because they were beyond the reach of antibiotics - which were in short supply anyway," Marian fled to this country five years ago with her husband and son, Vlad, now aged 10. She says compulsory monthly preg-

nancy tests were also introduced for Romanian women at their work places. "There are no sophisticated urine tests, so it was a matter of an internal examination. You can imagine how humiliating it was. Older women were encouraged to spy on younger ones and to report anything, like vomiting, that could be a symptom of pregnancy."

Women who were found to be pregnant were required to produce a baby. Failure to do so without medical proof of spontaneous miscarriage could result in charges.

"For some people not having a child became an act of defiance, a form of dissent," Marian says. "Of course, there were others who really wanted children, but who could not conceive, and the stress made it worse."

Iolanda Stranescu says: "You must also think of the birth policy against the background of food and heat shortages. Power cuts in hospitals are frequent and hygiene is dismal because of the lack of cleaning materials."

"Because the infant mortality rate was so high babies were not registered until they were six weeks old. So it is as if all those newborns who died had never existed." But even official figures put the rate at 26 deaths per 1,000 births, a level three times that of East Germany.

"To be forced to bear children that you cannot feed is the most terrible thing," Stranescu says.

No one seems to expect much opposition to legal abortion and contraception from the Romanian Orthodox Church. Nor do they expect a situation where abortion becomes the main method of birth control. "People used to pay a fortune for contraceptives on the black market," Stranescu says.

Despite the zeal with which it was pursued, Ceausescu's population growth policy was a failure. The birth rate remained at around 14 per thousand; there are 23 million Romanians. The final irony may be that Ceausescu's death will achieve what his life could not: a baby boom. Marian says: "What they managed to do was change people's natural instincts from wanting to have children to not wanting them. Now that people have freedom it may be different."

'Not having a child became an act of defiance, a form of dissent'

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Refugee from repression: Adriana Marian and her son Vlad fled to Britain five years ago

'Tis the season to be extra careful ...

Every year, badly made gifts lead to Christmas tragedies. Acting on a new EC directive, Britain has tightened the rules under which toys are made. But can they be enforced?

If your children are out of sight playing with their festive spoils, don't be lulled into a false sense of security. After the season of toy-giving comes the list of toy tragedies that in past years have included a six-month-old choking on a whistle from a cracker, a three-year-old swallowing a marble, and a four-year-old being taken to hospital after shoving Lego up his nose. The last two survived.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RSPA) warns that of 16,500 accidents a year, excluding those involving outdoor toys, many occur in the period just after Christmas, when children are more likely to be playing unsupervised, than on Christmas Day itself.

So it is appropriate, if unintentional, that the new European Community Toys Safety Directive (88/378/EEC) comes into effect today. Every member country has to implement its own set of regulations based on a common general European directive. Hence Britain has the Toy (Safety) Regulations 1989, which is tighter and more comprehensive than the preceding Toy Regulations of 1974.

For example, there are stricter controls over the lead content of paint, sharp edges, the way in which eyes are fixed on soft toys, and so on. Any toy released by a manufacturer or importer within the Community from this year will have to bear a CE mark (based on the French phrase for European Community), showing it complies with the European directive. The maximum penalty for the manufacturer or importer of a toy that doesn't comply is £2,000,

or six months' imprisonment, or both. However, as this does not cover toys supplied before 1990, some items in your local toy shop will not have to comply. Naturally, it will take time for CE-stamped toys to filter through to the shelves, so there will be an open-ended self-by period to allow the old stock to be cleared first. There will also be some exemptions, such as detailed scale models made for adult collectors and puzzles with more than 500 pieces.

British watchdogs are already sharpening their claws over the new regulations. "It's one of the first European directives to affect British products," says David Jenkins, RSPA's consumer safety adviser. "Foreign manufacturers might well interpret the law differently and produce and import a toy that we might not consider safe. Yet, provided it bears the CE mark, a trading standards officer [responsible for enforcing the regulations] couldn't pull it off the shelf unless he had good reason to doubt its safety. If not, he could be said to have 'interfered' with a sale and the free movement of trade."

"Nor does every product have to be independently tested to prove it meets the law. Because of the sheer numbers, the manufacturer, either foreign or British, can self-certify the product - in other words, claim it meets the standard."

Mike Drewry, chairman of the safety standards committee of the Institute of Trading Standards Administration, has on his desk "four or five" examples of toys stamped with the CE mark.

Other organizations are more willing to wait and see what happens. Dr Sara Levine, medical consultant to the Child Accident Prevention Trust, admits there are problems with interpreting standards and self-certification.



Christmas fun: Theo Chapman, aged 18 months, plays safe

"After all, a small retailer who has been happily self-certifying and selling his toys might be unwilling to fork out for an independent test to ensure his product meets the rules. There could also be difficulties with an innovative toy that might not fit into routine standards. But, on the whole, the regulations aren't that bad."

The British Toy and Hobby Manufacturing Association - which was represented on the safety committee to draw up the new rules - believes there is no problem with self-certification, since it is up to a trading standards officer to check that products comply. "Importers are also going to be on their toes before accepting goods, for fear of prosecution," says David Hawtin, the director-general. "But what does worry me is that some officers might misunderstand what makes a toy safe. We're so concerned with safety that this year we introduced the

Lion mark, showing that manufacturers have not only made their products to a high standard, but also had them regularly tested. This will continue as an added assurance to the new CE mark."

The Department of Trade and Industry remains calm. "All manufacturers who self-certify have to keep a dossier of information indicating the basis on which they have awarded the mark to their own toys," says Ken Storey, the DTI's press officer.

Finally, a note of caution for adults. It's not just the way toys are made, but the way we use them. Casualty departments, RSPA notes, are often packed with parents who have stumbled over toys strewn on the carpet or tested them out for themselves - with drastic results.

Jane Bidder

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Why making a name is Kylie unlikely

Fashions change, and trends come and go, but for more than 40 years readers of *The Times* have stuck to a tried, tested and timeless selection of names to give their offspring

Some talk of Alexander and some of Hercules, of Hector and Lysander and such great names as these. Actually, Alexander is the only one of these that still looks a great name to parents with a baby to christen: it has been a steady finisher in *The Times* Top 10 for 20 years now, although it has never breached the tape in first place.

In accordance with immemorial custom, we print in our letters column today (page 11) an analysis, initiated by the late J. W. Leaver in 1947, of the names of children whose births were announced in *The Times* last year. As usual, steady runners predominate: James and Elizabeth/Elisabeth lead the "all names" league, as they have for decades, while James and Charlotte (winner four times in 10 years) again top the slightly more volatile "first names" league.

It is the latter list which probably gives the more reliable guide, as it is likely to be a better index of readers' own tastes, as distinct from dynastic duty and the buttering-up of in-laws.

Elizabeth has often failed in recent years even to get into that "first names" top 10: perhaps its associations are too awesome. John (which reigned in the lists for 21 years as unassailably as James does today) has gradually subsided to 24th place in the "first names" list, but clings to seventh place in the other, no doubt in honour of dads and granddads who made their own mark on our statistics at the font a generation or two ago.

Leslie Dunkling, compiler of the *Guinness Book of*

Names, believes that "any name which is at the height of fashion at a given moment will go out of fashion within 15 years."

That is not so for our readers. Most girls' first names from 15 years ago still stand high today, while boys' names are more durable still. Of the 25 boys' names listed in last year's *Guinness Book* as most popular in Britain, 11 do not make it into last year's all-names top 25 in *The Times*.

Of *Guinness*'s top 20 girls, only eight appear in our top 20. The *Guinness* front runners, Rebecca and Daniel, were placed at 13 and 29 by our readers. James and Charlotte score moderately in *Guinness*, but Elizabeth and Charles do not appear at all.

The naming of children, like the naming of cats, is a deep and inscrutable matter, an exercise in labelling which sets a lifelong mark upon the victim. A name that is unconventional may mean misery at school; or mark the recipient out for a life of never being taken seriously. A name that was topical can hang a date of birth round one's neck when one would much rather forget it.

Our lists show how seriously our readers take their responsibilities. They bend to fashion a little, but have long memories. They show a marked preference for serviceable, workaday names which have been current in Britain since the early middle ages, for biblical antecedents, and for history. Nine of the top 10 male "first names" are those of kings who once ruled these islands (if you stretch a point for Oliver).

Contrary to received wisdom, living royalty seem to have little impact. Charles has never been top of the class, and only once made second place. Ann/Anne had led the field for years when Princess Anne was born, but lost the lead three years later, and never recovered.

Royal associations have failed to win much favour for Beatrice, Zara, Philip or even Diana. Prince William was given a name which had been near the top of the list from the start. Prince Henry's name was in the middle ranks before he was born, and is still so today (it rises to seventh place if Henry and Harry are counted as one name).

The evidence suggests that royalty and readers alike tend to make their choice from the canon of names which have shown durability. My own name confirms the point. When Leaver began his listings in 1947, even post-war patriotism was not enough to propel the traditional but perhaps over-exposed name of the then king into the top 10. But it has worked its way doggedly back to eighth place this year. George shows clear signs of long-term staying-power.

It remains inscrutable whether readers have King George, St George, Great-uncle George or George Michael at the forefront of their minds.

But popular names with scrutable antecedents, from *Dallas*, *Neighbours* and the like, seldom win much favour. If you can believe it, we did not announce the birth of a single Kylie all last year.

George Hill

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Executive Editor
David Brewerton

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.8138 (-0.0110)

W-German mark 2.7336 (-0.0369)

Exchange index 85.0 (-0.3)

STOCK MARKET

FT-30 Share 1916.6 (+48.4)

FT-SE 100 2422.7 (+60.7)

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Goodison gives warning of more City closures

By Neil Bennett



"And a happier 1991 or 92?"

Sir Nicholas Goodison has given warning that there may be more City closures in the 1990s and that trading in British equities may remain a loss-making industry for the foreseeable future.

In an exclusive interview with *The Times*, the chairman of TSB Group and former chairman of the Stock Exchange, said there is still excessive capacity in the City despite recent withdrawals from equity market making by firms such as ANZ, McCann and Alexander Leung & Crutchfield.

"The reality of the situation is now dawning on a number of stockbroking managers. After the

recent closure, other people are more likely to give in. Even large banks suffer financial distress."

Sir Nicholas said he saw little sign of the securities industry making money for some years. "The market is now so volatile. The institutions that the stockbroking firms are dealing with have equal control of the facts about the shares being traded." This, together with the increased price competition following the abolition of fixed commissions at Big Bang, meant that the industry would continue to generate insufficient revenue to cover costs.

"Look at the US as an example. There are only a small number of bulk equity trading firms on Wall Street today, and none is especially

profitable. One hopes the market will eventually reach equilibrium."

Sir Nicholas said the City closures had been a necessary price for transforming London into an international financial centre. "The international equity market has grown and grown and many houses

Pin-striped revolution.....20

have done very well. You cannot have radical change without someone losing out."

He admitted that he regretted the City closures but had realised they were inevitable when he formed the plans for Big Bang. "There was a rush to invest by a large number of houses in 1986, but there was no

way the markets could finance those investments. It was not my job to comment on individual business decisions."

As the youngest chairman of the Stock Exchange from 1976 to 1988, Sir Nicholas masterminded the changes brought about by Big Bang.

In the next decade, he is faced with the challenge of revitalizing TSB Group to make it competitive with the other leading clearing banks. TSB's retail banking arm recently announced 5,000 redundancies and savings of up to £80 million to reduce costs by up to 7 per cent. Since his appointment in January, Sir Nicholas has almost halved the size of the board to 17, and replaced many of the group's

senior executive team. He recently appointed Mr Don McCrickard, the bank's chief executive, as group chief executive, suggesting that he is planning cost-cutting programmes in the group's other businesses, which include Hill Samuel merchant bank.

Sir Nicholas said his main hope for the 1990s is that the purpose of all the changes in the City during the Eighties would be achieved. "I hope London will become the capital market in this time zone."

"The major threats to it are politics and the possibility of higher tax rates, which would encourage international investors to go elsewhere. Even so I believe it will continue to be a major market."

JULIAN HERBERT

LoD calls on Major for Budget tax fillip

Mr John Major, the Chancellor, is being urged by directors to cut taxes in his first Budget this March to mitigate effects of high interest rates and sustain boardroom faith in the economy.

The request came from Mr Peter Morgan, director general of the Institute of Directors, after publication of its bi-monthly LoD survey.

Only 65 per cent of its members are less optimistic than they were six months ago - against the low point of 69 per cent recorded in response to the October questionnaire.

As for their own companies, 75 per cent said they are performing "very well" or "fairly well" - down from 81 per cent in October.

Sixty per cent of the directors surveyed are more or equally optimistic about prospects compared to six months ago.

Forty three per cent said their company's profits had risen in the past six months, while 26 per cent said profits had remained static.

W German taxes still 'too high'

Herr Helmut Haussmann, West German economics minister, has called for further domestic tax cuts to make companies more competitive when European trade barriers are abolished in 1992.

"We must again reduce the top rates (of corporation tax) to significantly below 50 per cent," Mr Haussmann told *Die Welt*. This year, as the third part of a tax reform, West Germany is to cut the top rate of corporation tax to 50 per cent and income tax to 53 per cent.

But despite the cuts, of about 50 billion marks, (£18.29 billion) he said the rates would still be too high. Bonn is considering cuts in corporate and income taxes in 1992/93, bringing both down to 46 per cent. The top tax rate in the UK is 40 per cent.

CFA franc devaluation ruled out

The International Monetary Fund has ruled out a devaluation of the CFA franc as a means of reboosting the economies of francophone West Africa.

Speaking at the end of a tour of Nigeria, Cameroon and Ivory Coast, Mr Michel Camdessus, the IMF managing director, said devaluation would bring inflation rather than greater competitiveness.

The CFA franc is the currency of 14 West and Central African states, nearly all former French colonies. Backed by France, it is pegged at 50 to the French franc.

Some Western economists argue for devaluation as part of IMF and World Bank structural reforms.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	1989
Australia	2.26	1.95
Belgium	18.95	18.75
Canada	66.25	56.35
Denmark	1.95	1.84
France	11.23	10.43
Germany	5.71	5.41
Italy	2.35	2.05
Japan	274	249
Netherlands	12.25	12.38
Spain	1.08	1.01
Sweden	2140	2010
Switzerland	205.50	200.50
UK	5.195	5.075
USA	11.10	10.44
Portugal	263	237
South Africa	4.25	3.95
Spain	144	172
Sweden	10.45	8.85
Switzerland	2.29	2.45
USA	4220	3620
UK	1.70	1.60
West Germany	15000	15000

Bond legal bid to restrain receivers fails

From David Tweedy, Sydney

A desperate bid by Mr Alan Bond to regain control of his corporate empire failed at the weekend when the Supreme Court of Western Australia refused to restrain the receivers appointed to Bond Brewing Holdings.

Lawyers for Bond Corporation asked the WA Supreme Court to step in, in effect to overturn an order by Victoria's Supreme Court to appoint receivers to Bond Corporation's brewing company.

But Mr Justice Ipp of the WA Supreme Court dismissed Bond Corp's application. The

company's next move will be in the Victorian Supreme Court tomorrow when it will seek to have Mr Justice Beach set aside his order appointing the receivers. If it is unsuccessful, collapse of the entire Bond group looks inevitable.

Mr Justice Ipp said: "I have come to the conclusion with some regret because the granting of the order (in Victoria) appointing receivers was in the circumstances a considerable injustice for Bond Corporation."

Bond Corp's lawyers sought the restraint order to stave off expected loan defaults over the weekend throughout the Bond empire. Group debt,

which stands at about Aus\$7 billion (£3.45 billion), is inter-linked through cross-default clauses and accelerated payment provisions.

Putting Bond Brewing into receivership is likely to have triggered most of the cross-defaults over the weekend.

In addition, the State Insurance Commission of Western Australia filed on Friday for the winding up of Bond Corp itself, on the ground Bond was insolvent. The petition is likely to be heard tomorrow. A group of American bankers is also likely to move tomorrow to seize Bond Corp's US brewing interests.

Bond Corp noted "with interest the judge's comments that a serious and substantial injustice occurred in the manner of the appointment of receivers to Bond Brewing Holdings."

The court heard that Bond Corp solicitors in Perth were notified of the National Australia Bank-led banking syndicate's intention to go to court only 20 minutes before it did so. Bond Corp was therefore not heard before Mr Justice Beach handed down his order to appoint receivers.

Justice Ipp ruled against Bond Corp because it could not show that the release sought would be effective.

He said no evidence had been presented to show that anything would be done by the receivers yesterday and today, ahead of tomorrow's hearing in Victoria, or that financiers would act on either day to call in debts from Bond Corp.



Mecca dispels the gloom in style: Michael Guthrie, chairman, flanked by two staff members, at Le Palais Hammersmith

A happy new year for Mecca

If Britain faces a recession in 1990, there was no sign of it last night at Le Palais, Hammersmith, where revelers saw in the new decade in free-spending style.

Against all the forecasts of a gloomy year-end, Mecca Leisure, owners of Le Palais and a string of dance halls, night clubs and bingo halls across Britain, has been doing record trade during the Christmas and New Year period.

"It's been very good indeed, with admissions well up and

people spending more too," said Mr Michael Guthrie, Mecca's chairman. "There seems to have been a general increase in partying everywhere," he added.

He believes that Mecca has benefited from a growing trend for British families to "go away" for an extra break at Christmas.

Its 30 holiday centres were fully booked weeks before year-end festivities. "Cancellations were non-existent and three centres are already

fully booked for Christmas 1990," said Mr Guthrie. Mecca has been investing heavily in refurbishing its night clubs and this has been paying off handsomely.

Admissions in some places have been as much as 30 per cent higher than a year ago, with many younger patrons unaffected by the mortgage rises which have slowed consumer spending generally.

Mecca's provincial casinos have been sharing in the increased trade too but the

London operations, which have been missing the high-rolling Opec oil barons for some time, have continued to trade at subdued levels.

Recession-proof characteristics have been attracting attention among investors for some time.

City forecasts for the current year range between pre-tax profits of £90 million and £100 million and some analysts expect profits of between £110 million and £120 million next time.

Fears over recession start to recede

By Melinda Wittstock

The outlook for the year is neither bearish nor bullish, as investment managers and industry chiefs forecast a rather dull year, with little in the way of growth or turbulence in the equities market.

Most predict a difficult start but are quietly confident that the UK will avoid a recession as interest rates, they hope, begin to fall in the spring.

The economy will continue to slow for much of the first half, contributing to a bleak outlook for domestic profits,

but it is believed the malaise will be short-lived, as institutions and cash-rich bidders begin picking up bargains languishing on the stock market in anticipation of a drop in interest rates.

The FT-SE 100 Index is expected to finish the year between 2,500 and 2,650 after initial setbacks, but investors should not expect much in the way of earnings growth - likely to be less than inflation between 5 and 8 per cent.

But they can take heart that dividend payments are likely to continue their steady in-

crease. Investment managers caution investors to look for well-managed companies with significant overseas earnings streams, given remaining uncertainty about the British economy.

A balanced portfolio, with an acceptable level of exposure to all factors, is considered the safest and most rewarding strategy.

But fund managers believe it will be worthwhile to watch out for good bargains in the retailing and building sectors, which were hit exceptionally hard throughout 1989 by

spiralling interest rates. Some say 1990's expected bad news has already been discounted in the share prices of certain builders and retailers, and that once the prospect of declining interest rates looks certain to become a reality, British and foreign institutions will pile back into the stock market for such bargains.

Although the equity sector generally appears fully-rated in the short-term, a rise on the back of interest rate cuts is where the City is pinning its hopes.

Change for better, page 20

Higgs hits back with payout hike

By Our City Staff

Higgs & Hill, the construction group, unveiled its final defence against the £136 million bid from YJ Lovell in the shape of a 67 per cent boost in dividends and a forecast of 1989 profits at £26.5 million, up 6 per cent.

An independent revaluation of its development and housebuilding properties shows an increase of 39 per cent to £184 million.

Higgs values four of its construction sites at a further £29.5 million. This adds up to a net asset value of 423p a share after tax, compared with Lovell's cash and paper offer of 405p a share. Lovell is preparing its own valuation of Higgs's properties.

But the figures also show a slump in Higgs's housebuilding division, as the company published a profits breakdown for the first time. Housing completions fell from 540 units in 1988 to an estimated 272. The homes division is forecast to make only £7.1 million last year, an estimated drop of 41 per cent. The shortfall has been made



JOHN CHAPMAN

Spelling out prospects: Sir Brian Hill, Higgs's chairman, still left the company with dividend cover of 2.7 times, in line with the industry average. Higgs shares finished the year at 455p, 50p above the offer price. The pressure is now on Lovell to increase its bid, which it must do before Saturday. Apart from Higgs's net asset valuation of 423p per share in

its housebuilding and property divisions, the company forecasts its construction division had earnings per share of 17p in 1989, valuing it at up to 187p a share on a p/e ratio of 11.

Sir Brian argues that a fair bid price should therefore be 610p a share, plus a premium for control. "They are going to have a tough time this week sharpening their pencils and producing something credible," he said.

"They are going to find it difficult to even arrange underwriting if they don't come clean about their own housebuilding operations." He called for Lovell to give details of its housebuilding profits since the company's year-end in September.

Sir Brian said that a quarter of this year's property profits would come from Europe, while the construction order book at £300 million is the highest ever. "We are saying to our shareholders, look you have a group that moved very fast in the Eighties. Now we are spelling out the prospects for the Nineties."

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Experts signal change for the better in 1990's equity market

If our sample of professional investors is any guide, there are few out-and-out bulls rampaging through the City. But there is an air of quiet confidence, which is possibly more encouraging

Paddy Linaker, M&G Investment Management: At long last, the economy is slowing. Little earnings growth overall is expected in 1990 but dividends will continue to rise. Equities are currently probably too high, short-term. There will be bargains next year in retail and building sectors.

My share is T&N which is excellent long-term value - it has good management, good technology and is lowly-rated. Alex Hammond-Chambers, Every & Stone. The economic situation is bad. The next change will be for the better. While the UK current fundamentals for domestic profits are not good, overseas profits will provide a cushion so that earnings and dividends should not deteriorate.

Given the liquidity in the market resulting from the lack of gilt-edged sales, takeovers and natural savings, speculative and City-driven takeovers will continue. For fundamentalists, buy companies with good management, large overseas earnings and reasonable share price values, such as BTR or Tate & Lyle.

Nicholas Knight, equity strategist, Nomura Research Institute: Another very good year is in prospect in 1990. We believe the bad news in prospect has been more than fully discounted, and as the visibility of declining interest rates improves, UK institutions, overseas institutions and the corporate sector will all be buyers of UK equities.

One share that should do well after its recent poor performance is ICL. While some remain worried about the cyclical nature of the company's earnings, insufficient attention is being paid to the extent to which a multiple of only just over 8 has already discounted near-term problems.

Chris Cheetham, investment strategy director, Prudential Portfolio Managers: The

world economic outlook remains favourable, although the UK has particular problems.

However, equity markets have moved to discount this positive outcome and we cannot expect spectacular returns in 1990, except perhaps in Germany and Spain. UK equities are attractively valued but the fundamental risks are probably higher than elsewhere.

We would not normally promote a nap stock, as we firmly believe a balanced portfolio captures the right level of exposure to all the factors likely to produce the most rewarding return. However, if pressed, I would say watch out for Polly Peck.

Ernie McKnight, Scottish Amicable Investment Managers: The UK economy will slow down considerably in 1990; indeed, the process is probably more advanced than is generally appreciated.

However, the economic malaise is likely to be reasonably short-lived, with interest rates beginning to fall in the spring. A year-end FT-SE index level of 2,650 looks appropriate. British & Commonwealth Holdings could prove a rewarding investment for anyone prepared to accept a risk.

Norman Riddell, chief executive, Capital House Investment Management: The year is likely to be difficult and at times volatile but we are not forecasting a recession and believe that by the final quarter of the year the outlook in the UK will become much clearer.

I would recommend T&N.



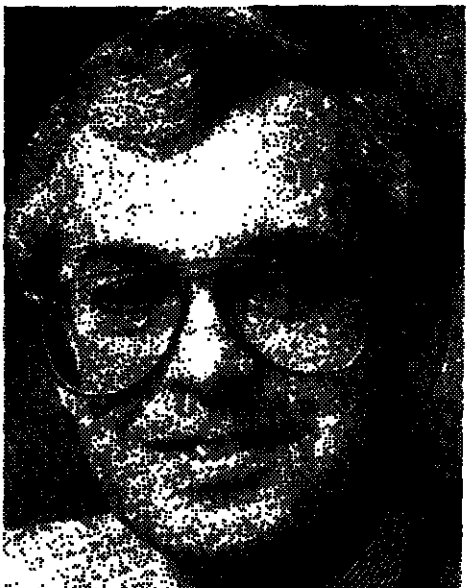
Linaker: retail and building bargains ahead



Hammond-Chambers: profit cushion abroad



McKnight: year likely to be volatile at times



Riddell: year likely to be volatile at times

At 205p, the shares are standing on a substantial p/e discount and yield premium to the market because of concerns about asbestos provisions and a difficult outlook for the motor industry. These concerns should be cleared within a year, by which time if the company is still independent, its rating could be significantly higher.

Jeffrey Thompson, equity strategist, BZW: With a target for the FT-SE of 2,550 at end-1990, I project a total return on equities of about 8

per cent for the year, but a setback in the first quarter on poorer news on corporate earnings should present a better buying level.

John Gann, chairman, British & Commonwealth: The market

ECONOMIC VIEW

Tough new year test for the Thatcher miracle

The "British economic miracle" is going to be sorely tested in 1990. If the anecdotal evidence of a more productive and more responsive economy is correct, then inflation may fall more sharply and growth hold up better than anyone expects.

If, however, the miracle is a figment of the Government's imagination, the outlook will be every bit as gloomy as it has been painted and the familiar cycle of rising inflation, high interest rates and increasing unemployment will reassert itself.

Forecasters at present are in striking agreement they are gloomy. According to the monthly comparison of independent forecasts collated by the Treasury, the average expectation is for the economy to grow this year by 1.6 per cent compared with a little above 2 per cent last year and more than 4 per cent in 1988. Only two months ago, the average forecast for this year was growth of more than 2 per cent.

Allowing for the recovery in oil output from the North Sea, that implies growth in the non-oil economy, where most of the jobs are, will be even lower - less than 1 per cent, according to the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.

As a result, the fall in unemployment, which has been the jewel in the Government's crown for the past few years, is expected to cease and the numbers out of work to be higher at the end of this year, at about 1.79 million compared with the 1.71 million or so in the final quarter of last year.

Even after a year of near recession, inflation, the forecasters believe, will still be about 5.3 per cent in the final quarter of this year - down on last year's 7.3 per cent, which was inflated by mortgage rate increases, but clearly in the high inflation rather than low inflation league of the industrialized countries. The current account deficit could fall to about £15 billion from £20 billion.

The striking feature of the forecasting scene is the degree of unanimity. Both the "Keynesian" National Institute and "monetarist" Liverpool are forecasting growth of 1.6 per cent (though their forecasts diverge in future years). Of the non-City forecasts, the Confederation of British Industry is gloomiest with 0.9 per cent and the European Commission most optimistic at 2.1 per cent, though its forecast, dated October, may now be somewhat out of date.

The inflation forecasts are also mainly in the same area, with the exception of Richard Jeffrey of Hoare Govett who expects the headline rate of inflation to have fallen to only 2.2 per cent by the final quarter. This reflects

both a fall in the underlying rate from its present 6 per cent to about 4.5 per cent and a four-point cut in the mortgage rate, most of it in the second half of next year.

Homeowners will be hoping he is right. But Mr Jeffrey's preferred policy on interest rate support for the pound has long diverged from that of the Government. A different view, both of the outlook and of the correct policy prescription, is taken by Keith Skeoch of James Capel. Capel expects inflation to be still at 6.2 per cent by the end of the year despite growth of only 0.9 per cent.

Mr Skeoch is among the hawks on the pound, concerned that the new Chancellor, John Major, has relaxed policy towards the exchange rate and has done so too early. A lower pound will raise import prices and bail out companies making high pay settlements at a time when companies are still not yet really feeling the pinch.

The Government, Mr Skeoch believes, is backing away from the difficult decisions of which it was so proud in retrospect in 1980-81. He is evidently prepared to contemplate a recession with more equanimity than ministers.

For Capel, the answer is immediate full membership of the European Monetary System, whatever that might mean for interest rates. That is not going to happen. But the odds are more in favour of membership at some time during 1990 than they used to be. The political argument against EMS membership used to go like this:

Any improvement in the polls for Labour in the run-up to an election would encourage a run on the pound. This would be more difficult to handle if Britain were part of the exchange rate mechanism and could require a rise in interest rates or even a high-profile realignment within the system. The Government would be blamed.

The situation now is different. Because Labour is fully committed to joining the ERM it is no longer self-evident that the prospect of a Labour victory would cause a run on sterling. By joining, the Government would risk little and could collect the electoral benefit of two or three points off the mortgage rate as expectations about sterling improved. Before that could happen, inflation would have to come down closer to EC levels.

The key question for the British economy this year is how rapidly inflation comes under control and what degree of pain is required to achieve it. That, in turn, will depend a good deal on whether the Thatcher revolution exists or not.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

Eighties brought upheaval as Big Bang reverberated around the Square Mile

Pin-striped revolution that shook City to the core

In the last 10 years, the City has undergone the most radical shake-up in its history. London has been transformed from a parochial centre for trading in national securities into the hub of a global financial dealing network. Jobs, traditions and whole firms have been sacrificed in a pin-striped revolution.

The decade opened with a bustling Stock Exchange blissfully unaware of its fate. Ten months earlier its rulebook had been referred to the Restrictive Practices Court over its policy of minimum fixed commissions.

There followed a four-year legal battle between the Stock Exchange, chaired by Sir Nicholas Goodison, and the Office of Fair Trading.

It ended in a compromise: Sir Cecil Parkinson, then Trade Secretary, which decided fixed commissions should go and membership rules were relaxed by the end of 1986, in one big bang.

The agreement was the starting bell for a complete restructuring of the City. The Square Mile became an auction ring where the world's largest financial banks were unrestrained bidders.

A total of more than £1.5 billion changed hands as long-established brokers and jobbing firms such as Wedd Durrant, Kemp-Gee, Akroyd & Smith-

ers and Grievson Grant were bought by Barclays, Citicorp, SG Warburg and Kleinwort Benson.

Even Sir Nicholas Goodison's own firm was absorbed by Banque Paribas, the French bank. Cazenove, the blue-blooded stockbroker, stayed aloof from the horse trading, and never regretted it.

The money was little more than the price of admission to the London stock market. With the abolition of the broker-jobber divide and the introduction of an electronic market none of the firms' systems was usable, while most of their senior staff accepted handsome pay-offs and departed to the Home Counties.

Today, many of the empires the banks built before Big Bang lie in ruins. The equity trading arms of Grenfell, Morgan, Grenfell and more recently ANZ McCaughan have been casualties. Others such as Citicorp, Springour Vickers and Phillips & Drew are still reeling from heavy losses.

Sir Nicholas is unrepentant about the fall-out in the new regime he engineered. "Our whole purpose was to come to terms with the international market in securities. Unless the barriers to membership were broken down London could have become a backwater for domestic business. Look at the success of Seq



Parkinson: compromise over commissions



Goodison: no radical change without losers

International. London will be the capital market in this time zone. By pulling down those barriers we attracted a great deal of business.

"You cannot have radical change without someone losing out. In 1986 there was a rush to invest by a large number of houses, but there was no way the markets could finance those investments.

"If someone was a casualty, either there was not a market for them or they were badly managed. I certainly made noises about excessive com-

petition, but it was not my job to comment on individual business decisions. You can regret seeing a firm close, but you cannot say this is a great disappointment when you knew it was inevitable."

Traditionally, the City has believed the Stock Exchange's hand was forced by the Government and OFT, which demanded unnecessary changes out of ignorance. Now Sir Nicholas claims the OFT hindered rather than helped the path to Big Bang. "The OFT delayed reform and

prohibited discussion. If the Government had allowed a sensible public debate, we would have been where we are two years earlier."

Another interested party also complains it was badly treated by Big Bang - the private investor. The abolition of minimum commissions has increased rather than reduced the cost of dealing, while portfolio management services have grown less sophisticated and more expensive. Today, most middle-ranking investors are guided to standard unit trusts, while only the very wealthy can still demand a full non-discretionary service.

Sir Nicholas sees this too as inevitable. "I think we are seeing a thoroughly desirable adjustment in the market. The old stockbrokers tried to be two things, a broker and a portfolio manager, and never charged for the latter. Specialized firms are now evolving. Private investors had been subsidized for years by big commissions on large institutional deals.

"Capital gains tax has had a far more damaging effect on their investments. It has ossified them. The Government has a misguided belief that capital gains tax is a good thing."

Again, Sir Nicholas rejects the charge. "Gamma stocks were never liquid, they were always thinly traded. At least our liquid stocks, and houses which deal in them, have joined the world league."

Eighteen months after coping with one revolution, the City was faced with another, A-Day, when the bodies created by the Financial Services Act came into being. The new dealing system needed a regulatory framework. The City

has been shaken by three major financial scandals in the past four years to highlight the importance of investor protection. Guinness, Barlow Clowes and Blue Arrow separately led to the arrest of a major industrialist, the resignation of the chairman of a major bank and the Government paying out £150 million in compensating investors.

The jury is still out on whether the new practitioner-based regulatory system will prevent the kind of scandals which marred the Eighties.

The Securities and Investments Board is still painfully rewriting its rulebook, scrapping most of the complex legal material that took years to prepare.

The individual self-regulating organizations will need even longer to decide on their powers. Four years after the Financial Services Act was passed, work is still very much in progress.

The Eighties have been the decade of revolution, the Nineties will put the new establishment to the test. London's position as Europe's foremost financial market-place will face a strong challenge from other European capitals, Paris and Frankfurt particularly.

The prize is billions of dollars. It is a contest Britain cannot afford to lose.

Neil Bennett

B Gas to offer safety service

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

British Gas is to offer a safety and environmental service to the gas and oil-related industries world-wide, using the techniques and equipment developed at its research centre.

The company's expertise in safe handling and storage of gas and protection for the environment is based on long experience of gas operations, assisted by an £80 million-a-year research and development programme.

More than 10 per cent of British Gas's annual research budget is directly related to safety and the environment.

Dr David Roe, head of the BG Technology Transfer Department, which is responsible for the new initiative, said: "We have already carried out half a dozen major hazard studies and safety audits for overseas customers. One particularly valuable skill we are able to offer is that of predicting the behaviour of accidental releases of hydrocarbon liquids and vapours, based on field trials at our sites. We are making available our hazard assessment computer models."

The new safety and environmental service covers a range of activities embracing everything from site evaluation to setting up safety and emergency procedures. It includes structural analysis, environmental impact and risk assessment.

GILT-EDGED

The ride may still be bumpy so keep seat belts fastened

For the last two years, the gilt-edged market has been trying to decide whether the UK economy is heading for a hard or soft landing. And as we enter 1990, it is still nervously awaiting the sound of the wheels hitting the tarmac. Investors should have listened to Mr Lawson when he said he had not promised any sort of landing. They might do well to heed the words of the new pilot, Mr Major, who is advising us, somewhat ominously, to fasten our safety belts.

So will we have a recession this year? Most economists are still not forecasting that - at least not in public. The Treasury's latest survey of 21 City and independent forecasters showed only one predicting a decline in the level of output. The consensus view is that the fall in the pound will boost exports sufficiently to stave off a slump.

If Mr Major gets lucky, he could end up in which domestic demand remains weak, but ex-

ports surge ahead. Output growth would then be sluggish, but recession avoided, and the trade deficit would shrink at a dramatic pace. This would create the pre-conditions for a vote-catching stimulus in 1991.

However, judging from the behaviour of the gilts market over the last couple of months it would not be happy even with such an outcome. The market has become increasingly worried about inflation. The gap between real index-linked yields and conventional yields - a barometer of inflation expectations - rose from 5.5 per cent to 6.3 per cent in the second half of 1989. The fear is that current economic policy, via a fall in the exchange rate, is designed to cure the trade deficit and not much else. Judicious timing of mortgage rate cuts could see the headline rate of inflation down to 5 per cent ahead of the next general election, but Mr Lawson taught the market to watch the core rate.

Where will that be when the Government starts the pre-election economic boom?

While there can be little doubt that enough has been done to remove demand-pull inflation from the system, cost-push inflation is rising and that is a far more insidious problem to deal with. It is clear how to cure demand-pull inflation - reduce demand. It is less clear how to cure cost-push inflation.

Costs are tending to accelerate for several reasons: pay settlements have risen; productivity growth has slowed; and import prices have risen alongside the depreciation in the exchange rate. Additionally, a number of special factors have contributed, for example the price of the Great British Breakfast has risen as shortages have pushed up the prices of tea and pork sausages, and a freak cold snap in Florida has now hit the orange crop. These may be one-offs which will not be repeated, but given the continuing upheavals in Eastern

Europe and the impact of environmental reforms on industrial costs, the wise investor should expect more "one-offs".

Over the next few months, a wary eye should be kept on three factors: wage negotiations, where the double-digit barrier has been broken and Ford looks like being a test case; commodity prices, which up until now have remained soft; and the extent to which companies mark up prices at the start of the year as they adjust price lists.

Mr Major must do his utmost to restrain such pressures. Those who have been calling for tax or interest rate increases to deal with the inflation problem are wide of the mark. Any such move would simply add to costs and drive the economy deeper into recession.

Indeed, the Chancellor should be contemplating a half-point cut in interest rates at Budget time to avert another hike in mortgage rates which would only serve

to push up pay demands. Figures out just before the Christmas holiday show net inflows into building societies continuing to weaken. The societies may consequently find it difficult to maintain the current structure of rates, particularly given the possible deleterious impact on inflows of the introduction of independent taxation of wives.

We may see the usual Budget time gilt rally in anticipation of an interest rate cut. But it will prove short-lived. The Chancellor is unlikely to be able to continue the fight against inflation. Even as the economy touches down, electoral considerations will force the pilot to apply full thrust. Remember the warning to keep your seat belt fastened until the plane has come to a halt at the terminal!

Glenn Davies
Chief Economist,
Credit Lyonnais Securities

THE TIMES

STOCK WATCH

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as a citizen of the United States of America. In October 1980 he was arrested in Lower Austria on charges of fraud and misappropriation.

Supreme Court on November 20, 1981. His appeal was dismissed by the Supreme Court on November 24, 1981 after a hearing at which the applicant

It followed from the independence of the legal profession from the state, that the conduct of the defence was essentially a matter between the defendant

at the hearing on February 16, 1981 at which the indictment was served on him only the titles of the crimes alleged were made known to him in English, but not the material substance upon

(v) Civil parties
Provisions allowing prosecution witnesses to be joined to criminal proceedings as civil

heard (*le principe contradictoire*), that being one of the principal guarantees of the judicial procedure.

A detained appellant in nature of things lacked ability that an appellant liberty or a civil party

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ATHLETICS: CRAM FAILS TO PROVE THE INJUSTICE OF HIS EXCLUSION FROM TEAM FOR COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Elliott and Morrell confirm their right to Auckland places

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

Peter Elliott's week finished as it had started, with another obstacle overcome. His impressive defeat of Steve Cram in the General Portfolio Challenge 2,000m cross-country race, at Durham University playing fields, on Saturday spared him the burden of leaving today for the Commonwealth Games amidst cries of "Cram should be going instead".

Sealing the fence which guards his home town track in Rotherham to train on Christmas Day proved worth the trouble for Elliott. You would have thought by now that the Olympic and world champion silver medal winner, would have been given the keys to the town, let alone the track. But no.

"On Christmas morning I had to climb the fence to get on because it was closed," he said. Elliott's speed training has been limited but a recent session of eight 200s in the low 25s and high 24s with 90 sec recovery was evidence enough that "if I was in front with 200m to go, I would be very difficult to beat." And so it proved.

Paul Larkins, who had said that there would have been no point sitting back waiting for a race between Elliott and Cram to happen, injected the early pace, but the scenario unfolded as the sponsors had hoped: Cram v Elliott. At the

final sharp turn, Elliott converted a commanding lead into a winning one, Cram conceding too tightly while Elliott took it with the aplomb of a formula one world champion.

Cram was pipped on the line by Tony Morrell who, but for the first two past-the-post selection policy, would probably not be going to Auckland. Morrell finished second to Sebastian Coe in the 1,500 metres trial.

If Elliott is to be commended for risking ignominious defeat by the man with whom he had disputed the discretionary place, then so, too, should Morrell. "I was very surprised at Tony racing today because a lot of people have said that it should be Elliott, Cram and Coe going to the Games," Elliott said. "If Cram had won, it would have stirred everything up again."

Elliott was racing for the first time since his 1,500m win at Oxford four weeks earlier. "I'm stronger now than ever—the way I ran today I felt like ten men." Immediately after the Games he will try to break Eamonn Coghlan's world indoor mile record of 3 minutes 49.78 seconds at Meadowlands, New Jersey. There is a \$100,000 (approximately £60,500) prize for the record; Elliott's best is four seconds adrift.

Commonwealth gold, though, is more important to him. Was the omission from the Kenyan team of Peter Rono, who denied him Olympic gold in Seoul, of some encouragement? "Kirochi and Cheshire are still there and the third guy's name begins with a T but I've never heard of him." No matter how the name starts, if it is Kenyan and runs middle or long distance it is just as likely to end with gold.

Kenya is where Tim Hutchings has spent most of December training. A recent hip injury restricted him and he admitted to surprise at how authoritatively he dispatched a good domestic field over eight kilometres. It was fitting that England's finest cross-country runner of the 1980s should win the last race of the decade.

Like Hutchings, Jill Hunter, winner of all three Euro Cross Cup races this winter, maintained her progress towards the Commonwealth 10,000m, by winning the women's race over 3,000m.

More Auckland-bound athletes are in action today at the Mersey to Newcastle 14.1-mile road race. The race is especially important for Steve Jones, the former holder of the world marathon best. Jones has yet to win an international championship marathon and needs to see off convincingly his fellow Welshman, Steve Brace, and the Englishman, Geoff Wightman if he is to rank as a challenger to Wakihuri, Monzeghi and de Castella in Auckland.

Angie Pain may not have the comfortable run she was expecting in the women's race as Veronique Marot emerged yesterday as a probable late entry.

General Portfolio cross-country race: 2,000m: Elliott 10:11.1, Morrell 10:12.1, Cram 10:13.1, Coe 10:14.1, Larkins 10:15.1, Jones 10:16.1, Hunter 10:17.1, Brace 10:18.1, Wightman 10:19.1, Pain 10:20.1, Marot 10:21.1, Jones 10:22.1, Brace 10:23.1, Wightman 10:24.1, Pain 10:25.1, Marot 10:26.1, Jones 10:27.1, Brace 10:28.1, Wightman 10:29.1, Pain 10:30.1, Marot 10:31.1, Jones 10:32.1, Brace 10:33.1, Wightman 10:34.1, Pain 10:35.1, Marot 10:36.1, Jones 10:37.1, Brace 10:38.1, Wightman 10:39.1, Pain 10:40.1, Marot 10:41.1, Jones 10:42.1, Brace 10:43.1, Wightman 10:44.1, Pain 10:45.1, Marot 10:46.1, Jones 10:47.1, Brace 10:48.1, Wightman 10:49.1, Pain 10:50.1, Marot 10:51.1, Jones 10:52.1, Brace 10:53.1, Wightman 10:54.1, Pain 10:55.1, Marot 10:56.1, Jones 10:57.1, Brace 10:58.1, Wightman 10:59.1, Pain 11:00.1, Marot 11:01.1, Jones 11:02.1, Brace 11:03.1, Wightman 11:04.1, Pain 11:05.1, Marot 11:06.1, Jones 11:07.1, Brace 11:08.1, Wightman 11:09.1, Pain 11:10.1, Marot 11:11.1, Jones 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Porter earns trial chance with Scots

Bigsun on tempting mark in stamina test

Riders banned after Punchestown farce

By Mandarin

Bigsun can gain his first success of the season in the A S W Handicap Chase at Cheltenham this afternoon.

Although he has never entirely lived up to the high regard in which his trainer, David Nicholson, holds him, he has run his share of good races and will get few better opportunities to win a valuable handicap than he does today.

He turned in one of his best efforts last time when just over six lengths fourth to Solidasrock, Panto Prince and Brown Windsor at Ascot, and that form was upheld when the first and third again ran well at Newbury on Saturday.

Whatever he lacks in finishing pace should be more than outweighed by this four-mile stamina test, and his touch of class should give him the edge against some exposed rivals.

Midnight Madness, a thorough stayer, won two long-distance chases in the West Country before finishing a 20 lengths fourth to Pharaoh's Laen at Newton Abbot. On the second of those successes, at Worcester, he beat Glenside Jerry by 13 lengths, but the latter reappears on 7lb better terms which should put them much closer together.

The unpredictable Mem-berson gained a bizarre win in this race two seasons ago, coming with a storming late

S W Handicap Hurdle. He is no stranger to carrying big weights and ran a creditable four-length second to Pipers Copse (received 20lb) at Cheltenham on his penultimate start. He then found the talented Ryde Again too much of a handful at Leicester but has less to do here.

The high-class New Zealand import Valrodan makes his British debut in the New Year's Day Hurdle at Windsor. He cannot be underrated but his victories in New Zealand suggest he is best with plenty of give in the ground and I pass him over in favour of Aldine.

Older Sherwood's seven-year-old has his share of ability but has not always been inclined to use it. However, on the balance of his form, which includes four listed race wins, he is the best horse in the line-up and I feel it is worth taking the chance on his enthusiasm in this small field.

However, for the nap I go to Devon and Versatile in the Haldon Sunday Market Handicap Hurdle. This is a competitive event but Nicky Henderson's charge looks well treated with only 10lb 9lb.

He was a very easy winner at Wincanton last season and then ran well until two out, possibly unsuited by the testing ground, in a valuable novices' event at Liverpool. This looks a more suitable opportunity.

Irish racing staged its very own Christmas farce at Punchestown on Saturday. The event was the Dublinian Opportunity Handicap Hurdle, restricted to riders who had not won 15 races under National Hunt rules.

Andy Statters, riding the well-backed Brube's Fancy, went the wrong side of a market doll and seven of the other nine competitors followed in his footsteps. Statters alone appreciated what he had done and pulled his mare up, but the other runners all continued and in a driving finish Richard's Kate got up to win by half a length from In And Out.

A protesting inquiry followed but the stewards ruled in favour of the conclusion that only the runner-up, In And Out, had followed the correct course and they disqualified the others.

All the jockeys collected seven

days suspension from January 8 to 12 and a £1,000 fine each.

The successful jockey Bernard Dineen is shortly to take up a new job with the Malton trainer Malcolm Jefferson.

Jim Dreaper had a change of luck when Ebony Star was a pambler on Blasket Music in the Dunstown Wood Maiden Hurdle and Dreaper afterwards reported that Carvill's Hill, having worked nicely on Saturday morning, will now be aimed at the Arlington Chase qualifier at Punchestown on Wednesday week.

At Fairyhouse this afternoon, the most intriguing runner is Little Breeze in the New Year Maiden Hurdle. This will be the five-year-old's first start over jumps, but two years ago he finished fourth behind Kalyani in the Budweiser Irish Derby.

When Jenny Pitman saddled Dat Train to land the Pycckley Novices Hurdle at Leicester on Saturday, it was her 17th win in eight racing days. But the bubble temporarily burst when her other two runners, Willisford and Dan Raine, both started and finished out of the frame.

The Lambourn trainer went into December with a score of only seven, but ended the month with 28 winners for the season. Dat Train justified 11-4 favourite odds in the Pycckley Novices Hurdle. He is one of five horses Maurice Overstern and Eric Kronfeld have with Mrs

DEVON EXETER

Selections

1.15 Lucky Verdict, 1.45 Tidal Stream, 2.15 VERSATILE (nap), 2.45 Deemster Willow, 3.15 Valsay, 3.45 Close Escape.

Going: soft

1.15 SOUTH WEST RACING CLUB NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,814; 2m 16 runners)

1 3221 CRYSTAL HEIGHTS 9 (S) Mrs J Rafter 11-3; 2 3222 ALMOOD 9 (S) Mrs J Rafter 11-3; 3 3223 BAYSHAM 9 (S) Mrs J Rafter 11-3; 4 3224 CAPTAIN BOWERS 9 (S) Mrs J Rafter 11-3; 5 3225 DARK DEBBIE 1999 M France 10-10; 6 3226 EVERING HAIN 4 (R) Hedges 5-11; 7 3227 HUNTER JUNCTION 4 (R) Hedges 5-11; 8 3228 JAMALAY 22 (S) Davis 10-10; 9 3229 JEFFERSON 2117 T Hallett 10-10; 10 3230 LUCKY VERDICT 10 (S) Pate 10-10; 11 3231 MIRACLE WORKER 2222 G Basking 10-10; 12 3232 MR ACADIA 30 (S) Hedges 10-10; 13 3233 HUNTER JUNCTION 4 (R) Hedges 5-11; 14 3234 BOLD LULLY 20 (S) Ayres 10-10; 15 3235 LASTING MEMORY 55 (S) Frost 10-10; 16 3236 PAST MONDAY 10 (S) Pate 10-10; 17 3237 CRISTAL HEIGHTS 9 (S) Mrs J Rafter 11-3; 18 3238 LUCKY VERDICT 10 (S) Pate 10-10; 19 3239 MIRACLE WORKER 2222 G Basking 10-10; 20 3240 MR ACADIA 30 (S) Hedges 10-10.

1.45 THURLESTONE HOTEL HANDICAP CHASE (E2,027; 2m 3f) (15)

1 1P1 ROSCOE HARVEY 25 (C,F,S) C Brooks 8-12; 2 2P4 ANOTHER BROWNE 66 (F,G,S) Mrs J Wonnacott 8-12; 3 211F KINGSWOOD KITCHENS 25 (C,F,S) R Frost 10-10; 4 4225 SUPER EXPRESS 8 (S,G,S) D Barnes 9-10; 5 4226 SHANNAGHANY 46 (S,F,S) J Old 5-10; 6 4227 MISTER FEATHERS 11 (S) J King 5-10; 7 4228 BUTLERS PET 6 (S,F,S) T Hallett 5-10; 8 4229 CALLED 65 (S,G,S) O Shawcross 5-10; 9 124 TIDAL STREAM 11 (S,F,S) T Foster 7-10; 10 221 HOPE DIAMOND 280 (S) N Gasson 7-10; 11 11P1 WINDMILL 11 (S) J Payne 10-10; 12 24P WINDMILL 11 (S) J Payne 10-10; 13 24P WINDMILL 11 (S) J Payne 10-10; 14 24P WINDMILL 11 (S) J Payne 10-10; 15 24P WINDMILL 11 (S) J Payne 10-10.

2.15 HALDON SUNDAY MARKET HANDICAP HURDLE (E2,721; 2m 1f) (18)

1 40P ROBIN GOODFELLOW 312 (D,G,S) G Basking 9-12; 2 41P FIVE LAMPS 62 (S,F,S) O Shawcross 10-11; 3 1214 PENALTY DOUBLE 27 (F,G) C Brooks 6-11; 4 4P12 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 5 4P13 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 6 4P14 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 7 4P15 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 8 4P16 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 9 4P17 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 10 4P18 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 11 4P19 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 12 4P20 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 13 4P21 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 14 4P22 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 15 4P23 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 16 4P24 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 17 4P25 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 18 4P26 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11.

2.45 DARTMOUTH HANDICAP CHASE (E2,721; 2m 1f) (18)

1 40P ROBIN GOODFELLOW 312 (D,G,S) G Basking 9-12; 2 41P FIVE LAMPS 62 (S,F,S) O Shawcross 10-11; 3 1214 PENALTY DOUBLE 27 (F,G) C Brooks 6-11; 4 4P12 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 5 4P13 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 6 4P14 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 7 4P15 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 8 4P16 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 9 4P17 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 10 4P18 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 11 4P19 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 12 4P20 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 13 4P21 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 14 4P22 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 15 4P23 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 16 4P24 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 17 4P25 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11; 18 4P26 THORNHILL 6 (S) S Turtan 10-11.

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The skipper of Rothmans sends his latest report from the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race

Agony and ecstasy change with the wind

We are midway across the Tasman Sea, 1,000 miles from Auckland, and the mood on board rises and falls with the wind. After the fast run across the Great Australian Bight, a series of high-pressure systems drifting across our course has turned this second stage of the Whitbread leg, from Fremantle to Auckland, into something of a lottery.

Rothmans is either doing 10 knots or two, depending on where we are when the ridges pass overhead. We are out here willing the digital speedometer into double figures. Whenever it is, the mood becomes ecstatic as we head



Lawrie Smith

towards the New Zealand coastline, hoping to close on the two Kiwi ketches, Fisher & Paykel and Steinlager 2.

When the winds turn fickle, the concentration stiffens and we tell ourselves that the others must be falling into just as many holes.

This morning, Grant Dalton and his crew on Fisher & Paykel are 35 miles closer to Cape Reinga, marking New Zealand's northern tip, with

Steinlager trailing five miles astern of them.

We are heading on a more easterly course than these two in the hope of picking up a steadier sea breeze close to the shore. It's a gamble, but it is about time the dice rolled our way. If it works out, then we can turn the 200-mile run down the eastern side of the North Island to Auckland into another match-race.

Whatever the frustrations, I much prefer these conditions to the straight reaching and running we experienced as far as Tasmania. Then, the race remained a procession, whatever the strength of wind, with

little chance to overtake.

Now, the fickle winds have turned the race into a multiple game of chess. Dalton cannot afford to let Steinlager break his cover, which leaves us with a free hand to seek out the best winds. If we can find them first, then we are back in the game.

The strong conditions experienced last week did cause problems for most of the fleet. We split our mainsail, which took an hour to repair, then it split again across the same spreader patch, which meant taking the sail down for another hour.

Later we blew out our 4-

ounce spinnaker off Tasmania as the winds began to die. The 220-square-metre sail disintegrated in a gust late on Saturday night, but it was better than having the boat broach with a heavier sail set, which could have led to far greater damage. The other consolation is that we carry a spare 4-ounce sail for such an eventuality.

We have also taken advantage of the lighter winds to reinforce the boom, which had developed a hairline crack across the thickest section, just forward of the vang connection. The damage was undoubtedly caused by the

strain exerted on the end of the spar each time it was dragged through the water as we rolled our way downwind across the night. The loadings are enormous, but we have bolted an alloy shoe over the damaged area which should hold until Auckland.

Merit, our leading sloop-rigged rival, has reported damage to her rudder. Stories of a cracked stock and m-servicing grating noises sounded dramatic enough, so it was a surprise when we suddenly spotted them on the distant horizon on Saturday. For a crew who are reportedly sailing their boat at 90 per cent of

its potential, the 50 miles they have clawed back over the weekend suggests that the Swiss have been bluffing us once more.

Now that we are looking at a 13 to 14-day crossing, the light winds have prompted us to jettison excess food and other supplies in a drastic effort to lighten ship for these crucial last four days. It is now in the lap of the gods as to who gets the wind.

From out here in the summer heat of the Tasman Sea, the 16 of us wish everyone a happy new year - and good sailing in the decade ahead.

Race report, page 24

Italians ban sale of alcohol for England matches

By John Goodbody

Italy yesterday announced the first of a series of measures to help prevent hooliganism at the World Cup finals in June.

The mayor of Cagliari, where England will play all their three matches in the preliminary pool, said there would be a 72-hour prohibition on the sale of alcohol for every match on Sardinia. The ban would apply to shops, bars, hotels and restaurants in a 30-mile radius of the city, before and after the game, as well as on the actual day of the match.

Paula De Magistris, the mayor of the town, said: "I aim to make our town completely dry for 36 hours each day of every match. There will be no alcohol on sale at all."

The Sardinians who flout the ban will face prosecution and closure of their businesses. Any of the expected 10,000 English supporters who hoard alcohol and become drunk will be jailed or fined home. "The English will have to learn to like coffee instead of beer," the mayor added. "Our bars will be open for orange juice and Coca-Cola. They can drink that instead. There is no need for them to get drunk."

The Italians are already making preparations to prevent a repetition of the 1988 European Championship in West Germany which was spoiled by a series of street brawls, particularly in Stuttgart, Düsseldorf and Frankfurt. About 800 people were arrested in the troubles, of whom 394 were English.

Two clubs in moves for Clough

Tottenham Hotspur and Derby County have made renewed attempts to sign Nigel Clough from Nottingham Forest, but are both unlikely to succeed (Chris Moore writes).

Brian Clough, the Forest manager, last night confirmed the moves for his son. He said: "As usual, his mother will have a say in whatever he does. But now that he is married so too will his wife."

He said that Tottenham had first tried to sign Nigel more than 12 months ago. Derby have made two attempts to sign him, but Arthur Cox, their manager, last night denied any recent move.

Jimmy Quinn, the Bradford City forward, is poised to join Wigan Athletic for £300,000.

Ian Porterfield, the Reading manager, has returned to his former club, Chelsea, to appoint Eddie Niedzwiecki, the former Welsh international goalkeeper, as his deputy.

Leading clubs demand more television cash

By Peter Ball

Television contracts are again causing a rift in football. This time the leading clubs are unhappy at the £60,000 fees they receive for live coverage of an FA Cup game, with suggestions of a blackout if the Football Association do not respond.

The FA have a five-year, £30 million contract with the BBC and BSB. This also gives the networks some access to live international matches, but the bulk is for FA Cup coverage.

"It is probably too late to do anything this season, although one or two clubs suggested we should ban the cameras," said Martin Edwards, the chairman of Manchester United, whose third round tie at Nottingham Forest on Sunday provides the BBC's first live match of the season.

The BBC refused to comment yesterday on what they

regard as an internal matter between the clubs and the FA. They were certain, however, that they would be covering United's visit to Forest, and it is unlikely that anything will happen before next Tuesday's League meeting with the Association.

The clubs, however, are clearly determined that the issue will not be allowed to go away. "The clubs are very annoyed at the way the FA have handled things," Edwards said. "We have not seen a sight of the contract in spite of numerous requests by the League's representatives to the FA, and there has been no negotiation about the fees, the FA just fixed them at £60,000."

"This has not been increased since last season, and we feel that if a League match is worth £190,000, Cup fees should be nearer to that."

The Italian Government has given an undertaking to Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, that it will prosecute any English supporters who commit criminal offences during the finals next summer.

During Moynihan's visit to Italy last month, he received an undertaking from the Interior Ministry about the prosecutions. This cheered him because police in other European countries have frequently been loath to prosecute spectators who misbehave.

These countries have reasoned that it would be simpler, cheaper and less trouble to deport spectators who misbehave. This has often allowed the troublemakers to escape not only justice but often even identification.

The mayor of Cagliari added: "We already know who the badly-behaved people are and we have their photos in our files. If they arrive here, there will be 2,000 police waiting for them, but we are confident that they will never be allowed to leave England."

This must be supposition on the mayor's part, because the British Government has repeatedly stressed that it has no powers to withhold passports from troublemakers.

The Football Association is screening England followers who wish to buy tickets officially against lists of known troublemakers; however, there is little that the British Government can do to stop

supporters from travelling across the Continent hoping to buy black-market tickets.

An official of the Sardinian police stressed that as well as it being an offence in Italy to be drunk, it was also an offence for anyone to sleep in the streets.

Antonio Pitea, the deputy chief police officer of Cagliari, said that he had received great co-operation from the British police, and that it would be another three months before it was decided exactly how many officers would be stationed on the island.

One problem that the police will face is that there are only 4,000 hotel beds in the town of Cagliari and many supporters will have to be housed up to 30 miles away, so stretching resources.

The Sardinian police will realise that coping with the English hooligans is not a series of set battles. Problems occur sporadically day after day, night after night.

Despite these precautions, the mayor of Cagliari said he was looking forward to welcoming the English supporters. "We do not share your fear of them. We know that the troublemakers are not the real supporters."

ROME: Gianluca Vialli, the Sampdoria and Italy forward, broke a bone in his right foot during his club's league game against Cremonese on Saturday and will be sidelined for at least two months (AP reports).

Taylor sets Villa an away target

By Chris Moore, Ian Ross and Dennis Signy

Graham Taylor has set Aston Villa a target of 11 points from their last 10 away games, starting at Chelsea this afternoon, to last the pace in the first division title race.

Villa, after their 2-1 win over Arsenal on Saturday, jointly have the best home record in the division, having won their last seven games at Villa Park, but Taylor has hours doubts about their ability to perform away.

"If we continue to deliver the goods at home, another three away wins and a couple of draws might be enough to give us the title," the Villa manager said.

His side are expected to be unchanged this afternoon. Their main concern over the weekend centred on Paul McGrath's long-standing knee problem.

Although his side established a four-point advantage at the top of the first division by defeating Charlton Athletic at Anfield on Saturday, Kenny

Dalglish, the Liverpool manager, is expected to make changes for the televised game against Nottingham Forest at the City ground.

Dalglish relegated McMahon and Beardsley, the England internationals, to the substitutes bench on Saturday, but both are thought to be in line for a recall. Houghton is also likely to return.

Brian Clough is expected to name an unchanged side, probably retaining Jemson, the forward, and Orlygsson, the Iceland international.

The worst fears of Alex Ferguson, the manager of Manchester United, were realised yesterday when he was forced to add the name of Paul Ince to his casualty list.

His absence means that Ferguson now has only 13 fully fit senior professionals against Queen's Park Rangers at Old Trafford. Robins retains his place alongside Hughes in attack.

Kingston see off their old enemy

By Nicholas Harding

The sight of Micky Berkowicz trudging off court, a beaten man, must have acted as the encouragement to Kingston leaders that the Carlsberg League leaders had reached the final of the World Invitation Club Basketball Championships for the second time at Crystal Palace on Saturday night.

As a key figure in all Maccabi Tel Aviv's six triumphs at the National Sports Centre, Berkowicz had established himself as one of the tournament's favourite sons. In the process he had also proved a considerable thorn in the flesh of Kingston, who lost the final four years ago to the Israelis and were then humbled by them the following season when they had the misfortune of being drawn together in the first round of the European Cup.

Now only slightly shorter of pace and marginally less lethal as a marksman, Berkowicz has left Tel Aviv for the lesser lights of Maccabi Rishon Le Zion, a team from one of the capital's less fashionable suburbs but good enough, nevertheless, to hold third place in the Israeli League.

It was with a characteristic three-point shot as the buzzer went for half-time that Berkowicz threatened to extend Kingston's misery against teams bearing the Star of David.

After a first half of nip and tuck, the second semi-final seemed to be going the way of the Israelis after Berkowicz had helped them into a lead of 44-42 by taking his first-half tally to 17 points.

Kingston were contemplating defeat but it was not to be. The first three and half minutes of the second proved to be the turning point. Kingston scored nine points without reply to lead 53-44.

With Berkowicz adding only one more basket and Kingston continuing to frustrate the high-flying American, Richie Relford, through the resolution of Cunningham and Scantlebury, Clark's four three-pointers helped shoot the English club into an unassailable lead of 70-56.

Byrd missed a free throw and a comfortable looking shot to keep the Israelis in contention until Berkowicz, of all people, wasted a one-on-one with 33 seconds left.

Kingston had succeeded 77-73 to secure a place in last night's final against Leverkusen.

RESULTS: Men's semi-finals: Kingston 77 (Clark 24, Cunningham 15, Byrd 13, Scantlebury 10, Meehan 10) beat Leverkusen 73 (Relford 24, Berkowicz 19, Lawlor 10, Byrd 10, Cunningham 10). Women's semi-finals: Kingston 70 (Clark 24, Cunningham 15, Byrd 13, Scantlebury 10, Meehan 10) beat Leverkusen 56 (Relford 24, Berkowicz 19, Lawlor 10, Byrd 10, Cunningham 10).

SPORT IN BRIEF

Duran's hope

Panama City, Panama (AP) - Roberto Duran, the WBC world middleweight boxing champion, hopes that the fact his apartment has been taken over by United States troops will count towards the community service he has been sentenced to in Florida for driving while drunk. Duran's home overlooks the Vatican Embassy, where General Manuel Noriega has taken refuge from American forces.

"I want a letter of recommendation, a certificate of good conduct, from American authorities here to show the judge in Miami," Duran said.

Final win

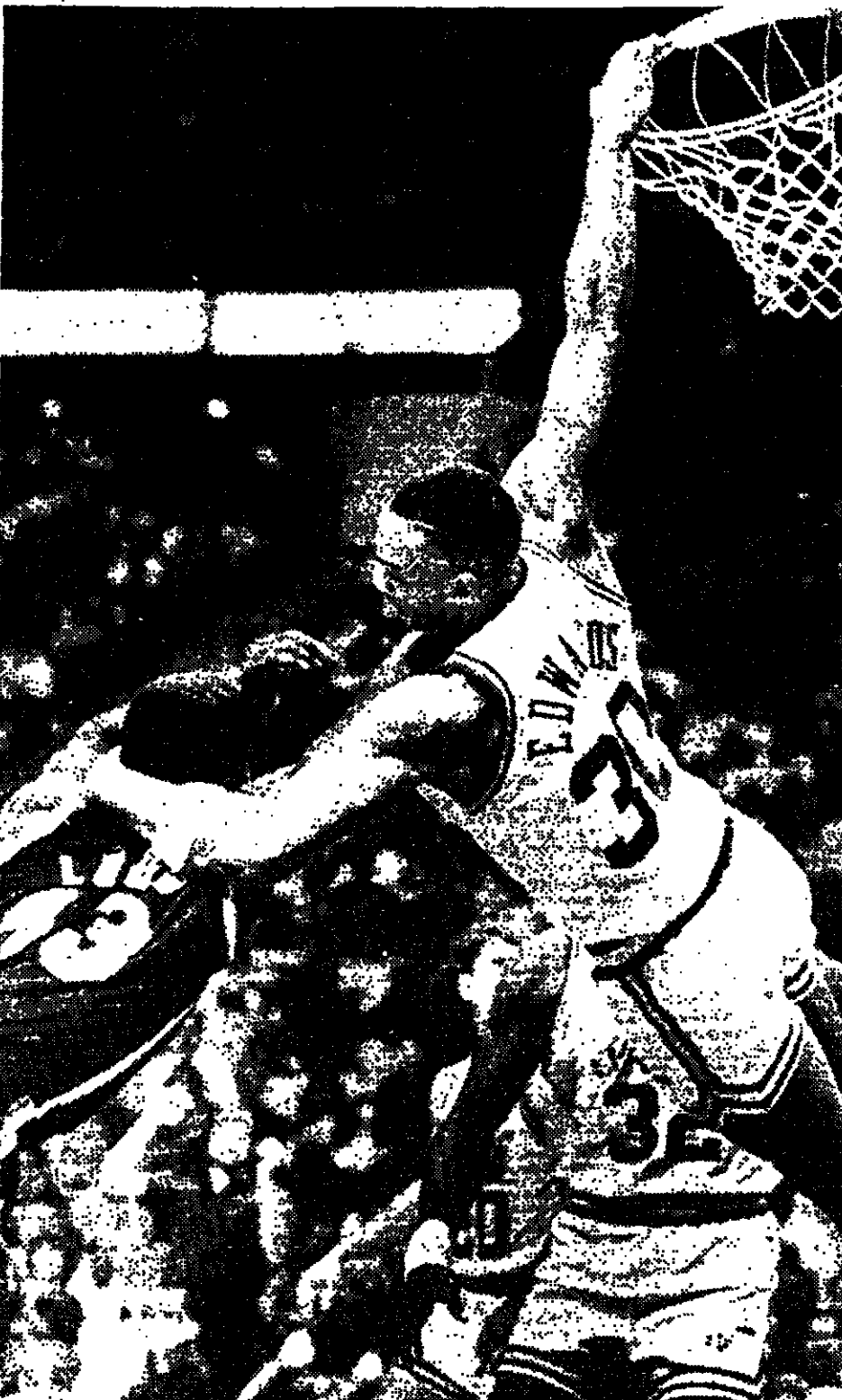
Ian Cammish, Britain's best all-round cycling champion for the ninth year, won the last time trial of 1989, the Leeds-Westfield 10 miles event.

Warriner wins

Alan Warriner, aged 27, from Lancaster, won the Webster's British open darts championships, beating Wayne Jones, of the West Midlands, in the final by two sets to one.

Third spot

Honolulu (AP) - The United Kingdom took third place in the Hawaii International Young Women's Ekiden 18.6-mile relay.



Balancing act: Blue Edwards, the Utah Jazz guard (centre), hangs on to Grant Long, of Miami, after missing a dunk attempt in an NBA match. Utah won 117-98

Romania's sports reshuffle

By Chris Thau

Following the collapse of the Ceausescu dictatorship, the entire sports establishment in Romania has been reshuffled.

Mircea Angelescu, a former president of the national football association, and a past chairman of the Communist Students Association, is a new Sports Minister. His deputies are Cornel Dinu, a former football international who played at Wembley against England in the Seventies, and Mihai Ispas, aged 25,

a fullback with the second division rugby club IMG Bucharest and one of the heroes of the revolution.

According to sources in Bucharest, one of the immediate consequences of the abolition of Ceausescu's laws on defections would be the renewed availability of Romanian athletes who have voted with their feet in recent years. Under Ceausescu's regime, defectors were branded as traitors and their families

suffered considerable hardship.

Once the new law becomes operative, Romanian rugby players such as Laurentiu Constantin - who defected to France in 1987 - and Christian Raducanu - who defected in Scotland last month - will be eligible to play in Romania again. In fact, Bucharest sources suggest that the Romanian Rugby Federation will soon grant Raducanu permission to play for an Edinburgh club.

Ferguson has spent £13 million in three years and defends the signings saying: "Our supporters deserve to see us going for the best and the youngsters will learn by association."

Belodedici receives the all-clear

Bucharest (Reuters) - Romania's football authorities have given their blessing to Miodrag Belodedici, the former Steaua Bucharest midfielder who played at Wembley against England in the Seventies, and Mihai Ispas, aged 25,

have lost their lives during the fighting in Romania. Murariu, an army captain, and his assistant coach and former team-mate, Major Radu Durban, were killed defending the Securitate army barracks from the rebels.

Others would contend that they would develop more by playing, though some feel they are not yet good enough. This is the real indictment of the real indictment of the United's heritage. Last season the reserves were almost relegated from the first division of the Central League, the traditional proving ground for aspiring first division performers. Even Hughes and McClair were drafted in at the end to prevent the unthinkable.

Hull's profit

Hull Kingston Rovers rugby league club has reported an annual profit of £3.8 million following the sale of their ground, Len Casey, the former Great Britain captain, is joining the club's board of directors.

Critical state

Rome (AFP) - Lionello Manfredonia, aged 33, the AS Roma footballer, was in a critical condition yesterday after suffering a heart attack during a league match in Bologna on Saturday.

Fighting back

The England men's lacrosse team beat a strong Syracuse University side 15-11 at Didsbury yesterday after being two down after 10 minutes. England led 8-7 at half-time and 11-9 by three-quarters. Their leading goal-scoring was Hallows and Roden, with three each.

Webbe's asking price may end Hull interest

By Peter Bills

Glen Webbe, the Bridgend and Wales rugby union wing, is believed to have turned down a £90,000 offer from Hull rugby league club to turn professional.

Webbe, capped 10 times by Wales, is the main target for Hull, who recruited another former Bridgend player, Gary Pearce, a couple of years ago. Hull have watched the player several times this season and have offered Webbe £90,000 over four years. "I can confirm that we have certainly had talks with Glen Webbe recently," Ian Pickering, the Hull secretary, said.

But Bridgend are confident they will not lose Webbe, who is said to want around £130,000 over three years, a figure which may preclude a move.

Webbe has only recently started his own double glazing

END COLUMN

Failure to give youth its head

By Stephen Thorpe

The boardroom *bravado* and continuing speculation over Alex Ferguson's future as manager of Manchester United have effectively masked one of the underlying causes of their present malaise. Whatever happened to the much-vaunted youth policy at Old Trafford?

A year ago today United came from behind to beat Liverpool 3-1 in an exhilarating match that brought significant contributions from four youngsters. Beardsmore, Sharpe, Martin and Robins have since played little part in the wake of an orgy of spending on supposed team strengthening.

Beardsmore, aged 20 and Wigan-born, had been named man of the match on his debut a few days before the Liverpool match and is a particularly unfortunate victim of the new philosophy. The did manage another notable appearance in the 5-1 beating by Manchester City this season but has since been largely overlooked after a serious foot infection. There are others on the fringe, including Gill, Wilson and Graham, who have not enjoyed the same exposure and must rely on injury to again force Ferguson's hand, as it did at this time last year.

When Hughes was dropped for the match against Crystal Palace, Robins, who has scored 50 goals in each of the last two seasons, was still not selected. However, his goal at Wimbledon on Saturday and the fact that Ferguson is down to 13 fit professionals for today's match against Queen's Park Rangers, may give him another chance.

Youth denied by expensive signings

The retention of the consistently inept McClair is a mystery and many supporters are questioning Ferguson's tactical awareness and powers of motivation.

Another precocious youngster, Mataranu, born in Cambridge of Italian parents and signed from non-League football, made a startling entrance as substitute against Tottenham Hotspur in the Littlewoods Cup defeat in October. Days later he found himself as a substitute in the reserve team.

After that victory against Liverpool Ferguson declared: "It gives me a great deal of satisfaction to see the young boys coming through. We must raise our own players, it is the tradition and care of the club. In the course of the next few years I hope there will be more, and certainly I put great importance on the youth policy and I am sure the work will prove worthwhile."

In due deference to the Busby Babes and subsequent halcyon days Ferguson's fledglings were born - prematurely it has transpired. They have since all but fallen from the Old Trafford nest as Webb, Phelan, Pallister, Ince and Wallace arrived expensively.

Ferguson has spent £13 million in three years and defends the signings saying: "Our supporters deserve to see us going for the best and the youngsters will learn by association."

Reserves narrowly avoided relegation

Others would contend that they would develop more by playing, though some feel they are not yet good enough. This is the real indictment of the real indictment of the United's heritage. Last season the reserves were almost relegated from the first division of the Central League, the traditional proving ground for aspiring first division performers. Even Hughes and McClair were drafted in at the end to prevent the unthinkable.

Yet United had reached the FA Youth Cup final in 1982 and 1986 and Ferguson has since earned praise from the board for his wholesale revamping of the scouting and coaching system.

Clayton Blackmore, who probably has the hardest shot of anyone on the staff, graduated through the previous network but, at 25, has still to establish himself permanently in the team. Curiously he gained more schoolboy caps for Wales than his ally, Hughes, and has been a regular full international since he was 20.

Such are the vagaries of football, but United, with just nine victories in 34 League games, would perhaps do well to pay more heed to one of the cornerstones of their former strength in the year ahead.